

CSC207 - Introduction to Visual Basic

Course Syllabus

Semester: Spring 2016

Instructor: George Volkov (Associate Professor of Computer Science – retired)

Contact Methods: Blackboard Learn Messaging (highly preferred) *or* gvolkov@threeivers.edu (emergency only) for very private (student to instructor) communications.

Online Discussions: will be available for all learning topics – this is the only acceptable class communication method that should be extensively used. This is an online course, so all available online communication and pedagogy methods will be utilized.

Campus Office Hours: By appointment only (please send me a BB message)

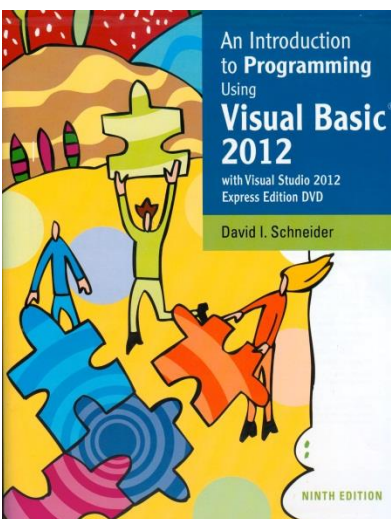
Campus Office: None

Campus Phone: None

Response Time Objectives: BB Messages – 24 hrs (weekdays), 48 hrs (weekends)
BB Discussions – 24 hrs (weekdays and weekends)
Assignment grading – less than a week from due date
Phone Messages - none

Please note that the Spring break is March 19 – March 27 2016, but this should have little impact on our online course.

Required Text:



An Introduction to Programming Using Visual Basic 2012, 9th Edition, by David I. Schneider, Prentice Hall Publishing, Copyright Year 2014. The Student Resource website, containing additional information including example source code, solutions to odd numbered problems, and links to software, is located at: <http://www.pearsonhighered.com/schneider>.

This textbook is sold through the Three Rivers bookstore (loose leaf version ISBN-13: 978-0-13-342869-8) bundled with the access code for the Prentice Hall Companion Website and 2012 Visual Basic Express (student edition) CD.

The Visual studio 2012-2015 Express Edition integrated development environment (IDE) will need to be installed. Installation instructions will be provided but no software installation support is generally provided by TRCC faculty or staff.

Software, Supplies and Materials: Removable storage device (memory stick, aka travel drive, USB drive, etc.) for students requiring use of on-campus open computer lab for course completion. In addition, other free software (to be announced) may be required during the semester.

Course Description: Fundamentals of programming and program development techniques in the Microsoft Visual Basic programming language. Topics include data types, functions, elementary class, selection, repetition, arrays, structures, string manipulation, and file processing.

Course Objectives:

One of the objectives is to provide the student with expanded guidelines for electronic communication techniques in a business/academic environment and the opportunity to extensively use these techniques for all class activities throughout the semester. Specifically this will include Blackboard class announcements, discussions, messages and other techniques as appropriate.

Please note that all students are required to maintain an online learning portfolio using a TRCC designed template. Through this electronic tool, students can see their own growth in college-wide learning. The student can keep and continue to use the Digication account after graduation. A Three Rivers General Education Assessment Team will select random works to improve the college experience for all. No names will be attached to the assessment work; it will remain private and anonymous for college improvement purposes. In class outlines, students will find recommended assignments which support various college-wide learning abilities. The student will have a tool which can integrate their learning from the classroom, school, and life and allow for another opportunity of learning at TRCC. Students will be able to make multiple portfolios.

The main objective of this course is to provide the student with rapid application development technology using Microsoft Visual Basic 2012/2015 software within the Visual Studio S/W package. This is an industry standard for quick Windows application software development. Principal topics include GUI controls, event handling, graphics, exception handling, file I/O, and an introduction to data base access and ASP.NET applications. Specifically, at the completion of the course students will be able to describe, design and use Visual Basic features including but not limited to the following:

- User interface design (GUI)
- Variables, constants and calculations
- Decisions and conditions
- Repetition and loops
- Lists, menus, common dialog boxes
- Sub procedures and functions
- Multiform projects
- Arrays and elementary structures
- Limited Database applications
- Data file manipulation
- Basics of Object Oriented programming
- Elementary graphics, animation and sound

Course Pace: Although there is great flexibility in when the student works on this online course, it is not entirely self-paced. Assignments, with strict due dates, will be released throughout the semester.

Course Evaluation: Course evaluation will be based on computer homework assignments, quizzes, frequent and meaningful participation in online discussions, and the final mini project. The final grade for the course will be determined by the following percentages:

Homework Assignments	45%
Mid-term Exam	20%
Final Exam/Mini Project	25%
Blackboard activity participation	10%

Class Assignments: Class assignments should be submitted exclusively online, on or before the due date. An assignment will lose 25% of the score for that assignment if submitted late. No assignments will be accepted after the cutoff date. Assignments will be graded on professionalism, accuracy, style and completeness. The details for each assignment, including work to be done and the due date, and cutoff date, will be posted in that assignment's description in Blackboard.

Quizzes: Exams will include some multiple-choice questions and small programming projects, and will cover material from the text, assignments, and online presentations. All exams will be administered online.

Course grades: Grades will be assigned as objectively as possible, generally based on class statistics, approximately according to the following sliding scale (with plus or minus, as appropriate):

89 - 100%	A
77 - 88%	B
65 - 76%	C
53 - 64%	D
52% and Below	F

Withdrawing from the course: A student who simply stops submitting work will receive the grade earned on that work, usually a failing grade. To receive a "W" grade instead, apply for a withdrawal through the registrar's office by May 9th 2016. A "W" will be entered on the student transcript but will not be included in the calculation of the GPA. "UF" grades may also be used (this is similar to the previous "N" grade).

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to do their own work in this class. Working together to better understand the material is generally acceptable. Submitting duplicate work is not and will adversely affect the assignment grade. Actively participating in the discussion boards both to ask and to answer questions is generally expected of all students. Posting of detailed instructions for "how to" responses to questions is encouraged but posting of a complete solution is not. Example violations include but are not limited to:

- Copying or sharing a file (program) or any portion of a file from another student.
- Sharing or allowing another student to copy your files or any portion of a file.
- Duplicating or distributing copies licenses for software programs and/or services.
- Obtaining solution from unauthorized internet or other sources.

Class Cancellations: As a fully online class with no meetings on campus, any college delay or closing due to weather or other circumstances, will have little or no impact on scheduled activities for this class. However, if there is an impact (such as a widespread power outage) then the instructor will inform you of any changes to existing dates.

Students with Disabilities: If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need support services and/or special accommodations for this class, please contact the Disabilities Support Services at TRCC. Please note that the instructor cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until the instructor has received an accommodation letter from the Disabilities Counselor.

Course Outline

Week	Topics	Approximate Due Dates	Text Assignments
1	Introduction to Computers and Problem Solving	1/24/16	Chapter 1
2	Visual Basic Controls and Events	1/31/16	Chapter 2 and HW problems
3	Variables, Input and Output	2/7/16	Chapter 3 and HW problems
4	Decisions	2/14/16	Chapter 4 and HW problems
5-6	General Procedures	2/28/16	Chapter 5 and HW problems
7	Repetition	3/6/16	Chapter 6 and HW problems
8	Mid-Term Exam	3/13/16	
9-10	Arrays	4/3/16	Chapter 7 and HW problems
11-12	Text Files	4/17/16	Chapter 8 and HW problems
13	Additional Controls and Objects	5/1/16	Chapter 9 and HW problems
14	Introduction to Databases and/or Object-Oriented Programming *	5/8/16	Chapters 10 and 11
15	Final Exam/Final Mini Project	5/15/16	

Notes: This course outline is subject to change as conditions warrant.

*Optional material – some aspect will probably be covered.