

ICS 698 - Problems in Information Systems

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Optional Virtual Course Meetings: See Canvas for meeting times and location.

About The Optional Virtual Course Meetings: There will be scheduled optional virtual meetings to share information, course content, and address questions. While attending the live sessions is optional, you are required to view the meeting recordings, which will be made available unless technical issues arise. These sessions are also an opportunity for you to ask questions. Meeting times and locations will be posted in Canvas.

ICS 698 Catalog Description

Seminar on topics from various areas of information systems. Content will vary each offering and includes projects involving independent research and written and oral presentations.

Current Topic for Spring-2026

This is a graduate course for an audience with minimal or no any programming experience. It's intended to introduce some of the basic and some advanced programming concepts. The advanced concepts may vary depending on the audience and it may include topic such as Data Structures, Object-Oriented Programming (OOP), Data Analysis, Database Programming, GUI Programming, etc.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

SLO 1- Understand and demonstrate the use of various programming control structures

SLO 2- Understand and demonstrate the use of some of the data types and data structures

SLO 3- Write programs to solve problems using professional standards

WORK LOAD

This is going to be a rigorous course and it will involve significant work in terms of reading, programming, practicing, etc. You will be working on multiple fronts. You can anticipate that aside from reading the book and required resources in Canvas, you may be spending a minimum of 10 hours per week on our course. It is expected that your output will be of the highest quality.

Grading, Assessment Strategy, and Course Expectations

Grading Scale

Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade
94	A	80	B-	67	D+
90	A-	77	C+	63	D
87	B+	73	C	60	D-
84	B	70	C-	Less than 60	F

*Assessment Strategy

Components of final course grade and relative contribution of each to final grade:

Assessment Strategy	*Weight
Knowledge Checks	10 %
Exams	20 %
Misc. Activities (e.g., End of Chapter Exercises, Reflections, Discussion Boards, Group activities, etc.)	30 %
Ongoing Programming Assignments	25 %
Major Programming Assignment(s)	15 %
Total	100 %

* The assessment strategy and the above points may be adjusted as deemed appropriate.

Course Material

Required Text Book:

Gaddis, T. (2021). *Starting out with python (5th ed.)*. Pearson. ISBN: 978-0-13-592903-2

Udemy:

Please ensure that you have access to Udemy, which is free to BSU students. Please refer to “myballstate” portal (<https://myballstate.bsu.edu>). As of December 25, 2025, **Udemy Business** is listed under **Productivity Tools**.

University Policies and Statements

University Statement:

We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse. If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact the instructor of record as soon as possible. Ball State's [Disability Services Office](#) coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at 765-285-5293 or dsd@bsu.edu.

Freedom of Expression:

In this course, we are committed to fostering a learning environment that values intellectual diversity, encourages free expression, and promotes open inquiry. As members of the Ball State Community, we treat each person in the Ball State community with civility, courtesy, compassion, and dignity and respect and learn from differences in people, ideas, and opinions. Please review Ball State University's [Statement on Freedom of Expression](#), the resources on Ball State's [Freedom of Expression webpage](#), and [Ball State's Beneficence Pledge](#).

Attendance:

- You are expected to attend classes.
- Absences will be excused for the following: funeral and bereavement leave, jury duty, late course addition, military absences, observance of religious holidays, pregnancy leave, student-athletes participating in university or department-approved activities, and university advisories.
- Students may encounter other circumstances (e.g. car accidents, job interviews) that result in course absences. Excusing these absences and adjustments are at the discretion of the instructor. However, please try to notify your instructor at the earliest.
- In general, students are expected to notify all their instructors once they anticipate being absent for any reason (e.g., funeral) or as soon as possible after the absence begins (e.g., unexpected injury or illness). The student may need to provide documentation (with confidential information redacted when appropriate) to each instructor if requested.

Title IX:

Ball State University is committed to providing a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students. If you or someone you know has experienced sexual harassment—including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, please know that you are not alone. The University offers support services and resources. For more information or to report an incident, please visit bsu.edu/titleix or contact the Title IX Coordinator at 765-285-1545 or at titleix@bsu.edu

As your instructor, I am a mandatory reporter under the Title IX policy and required to report any information I receive about possible sexual harassment. This includes information shared in class discussions, assignments, or private conversations.

What happens after I report? The Title IX Coordinator will email the person who experienced sexual harassment (complainant) and invite them to schedule a meeting. If the complainant chooses to meet with the Title IX Coordinator,

- Title IX Coordinator will offer supportive measures (e.g., counseling, extensions on deadlines, course-related adjustments, changes to work or class schedules, and/or referrals to campus offices), review the policy, and discuss options to move forward.
- If a complaint is filed by the complainant or the University, an investigation will begin following University policy.

Student Academic Ethics Policy:

Honesty, trust, and personal responsibility are fundamental attributes of the university community. Academic dishonesty and other forms of academic misconduct threaten the foundation of an institution dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and will not be tolerated. To maintain its credibility and reputation, and to equitably assign evaluations of scholastic and creative performance, Ball State University is committed to maintaining a climate that upholds and values the highest standards of academic integrity. Visit the VPAA's [academic integrity website](#) (Students tab) for resources on understanding academic integrity, citing sources properly, and avoiding inadvertent academic dishonesty. To learn about BSU's academic integrity expectations and students' rights, please read the University [Student Academic Ethics Policy](#).

Academic integrity violations include giving or receiving an unfair academic advantage (cheating), presenting someone else's ideas or work as your own (plagiarism), and falsifying academic records. Unless otherwise indicated, you must work independently by yourself. Check with me if you are unsure whether something constitutes academic dishonesty. Examples of academic integrity violations include but are not limited to:

- Using resources not authorized by the faculty member (including devices, AI tools, hidden notes, and open books)
- Using commercial study websites to find answers to graded assignments (Chegg, Course Hero, StudyPool, OneClass, etc.).
- Without the instructor's written permission, giving away, buying, or selling graded assignments class notes, exams, study guides, or other course materials to other students or to third-party vendors (Course Hero, Chegg, 24HourAnswers, etc.).
- Working with another person on any assignment other than authorized group projects.
- Sharing or allowing others to access your files, whether done with permission or not.
- Reusing your own work from another semester, course, or section.
- Sharing answers with others during exams (passing notes, texting, whispering, gesturing)
- Discussing exam questions and answers with students who have not taken the exam.
- Soliciting others to complete work for you.
- Cheating on assessments (e.g., Quiz, Exams, etc.)

Generative AI:

All work conducted and/or submitted in this course must be your own, completed in accordance with the Ball State University's [Student Academic Ethics Policy](#). Unless stated otherwise, you may not collaborate with or make use of ChatGPT or any other generative AI applications at any time to develop materials submitted in this course.

Office of Disability Services

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact the instructor of record as soon as possible. Ball State's [Disability Services](#) office coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at 765-285-5293 or dsd@bsu.edu.

Course Policies

- *Assigned Readings:* All assigned readings for the date listed are expected to be complete prior to class on that date.
- *Academic Integrity:* All students enrolled in ICS courses are expected to adhere to the Ball State University Academic Ethics Policy: <https://www.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/associateprovost/services/studentethics> (Links to an external site.)
- *Civility:* All students enrolled in ICS courses “share a responsibility for maintaining an environment where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity, and reason.”
- Additional course policies may be provided as deemed appropriate.

Assignment Submission Formatting

Aside from the main objective of the various assignment, each assignment will have certain generic requirements such as the file naming convention, coding convention, etc. You must also follow the generic requirements, otherwise you may lose points.

Professional Conduct

As a Masters candidate, we expect you to present yourself on campus and in the classroom as a working professional. Please adhere to a professional dress in the classroom and on-campus. Please also be aware of the academic ethics policy: <https://bsu.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2023-2024/graduate-catalog/the-graduate-school/student-academic-ethics-and-attendance-policies/>

Class Participation

As applicable, Class participation is required. The instructor will randomly ask students to explain topics presented in class based on their reading requirements for the course. Come prepared to class. For online classes, the class participation may be assessed differently than on-campus (face-to-face) classes.

Pop-Quizzes

As applicable, there may be unannounced pop-quizzes. These quizzes will be administered via Lockdown Browser. Therefore, you must ensure that you are always ready and your laptop has lockdown browser. The quiz will be available for a very short period of time and if you are not ready during this time, then you will lose out on the points. There will not be any make-ups for the pop-quizzes.

Assessment Review Process

To ensure the authenticity of student work and uphold academic integrity, the faculty member reserves the right to require verifications of authorship or understanding of the material. This could be done in a variety of ways, such as additional assessment in the form of an oral defense, a synchronous (in-person or virtual) timed assessment, or other methods as deemed appropriate. This may be done regardless of whether academic misconduct is suspected. Therefore, just because you are asked additional questions does not necessarily mean that you are suspected of misconduct.

Late Submission

Make-up assignments and exams for full credit will be limited to professionally documented illnesses and/or emergencies at the discretion of the professor. Make-up assignments and exams without documented illnesses and/or emergencies, as determined by the professor, will be lowered one grade (10%) for each day, or fraction thereof, that the assignment is late.

In the absence of a clear penalty, all late submissions will have 10% of the points deducted for every 24-hour period beyond the deadline. Some assignments may have a different late submission percentage. After 72 hours, a late assignment may not be accepted. However, even if you are late beyond the 72-hour period, it is recommended that you consult the instructor and still submit the assignment with the understanding that it may or may not be accepted.