

## **Information for Instructors of CIS-115 Fall 2015**

### **New Textbook and My Programming Lab Changes:**

New for the fall of 2015 we will utilize a new website which engages the students in a social learning solution. The social learning solution is called Mobius SLIP.

Link: <http://www.mobiuslip.com/> We will be piloting this program during the fall of 2015. I did test the Mobius SLIP social learning solutions during the summer of 2015 and I liked it very much and the students did too! This learning solution addresses the question of “Why do many college students lack the creative problem solving, critical thinking, communication and collaboration skills needed for success?” Mobius SLIP encourages the students to review their programming assignments 3 times during the week, thus enabling better student engagement, especially online.

For the fall of 2015 we will be using a new textbook for CIS-115. Here is the information:

Starting Out with Python (3rd Edition), Tony Gaddis

Paperback: 614 pages

Publisher: Pearson; 3rd edition (2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0-13-386225-9

ISBN-13: 978-0-13-386225-6

Basically chapters 3 and 6 were combined and placed into chapter 5 in the new book, thus reducing the number of chapters to 13 for the new textbook. There will be no need to change MyProgrammingLab except to re-arrange a few of the assignments which I have already done.

### **Syllabus and Instructor Information:**

You will need to update your Instructor Information Sheet near the top of the course in Moodle. Also, you will need to update certain sections of the syllabus for your particular class, such as your email address, your office hours, and course meeting times, etc.

### **Are You Ready Quiz:**

There is a quiz the first week entitled “Introduction to Programming: Are You Ready?” I give the students 100 points for successfully completing one attempt, although they probably will not score 100. After the census date, I safely record their actual grade somewhere (such as the comments field in Moodle) and then update their grade to 100 points if they submitted a reasonable attempt.

I mention to the students that a score of 68 or below may indicate that this will be a challenging class if they are taking the class online. For my in-seat classes, the number is much lower than 68. This test instrument only suggests mathematical readiness with respect to computer programming and does not measure creativity, imagination, abstract thinking ability, or the many other talents needed to be a successful programmer. The following link explains the cutoff I suggest for CIS-115 online classes. Of course the students are not required to drop the class if they score below the cutoff.

[http://www.carriereducation.com/downloads1/Other4SpecialAssgns/CPPTI\\_Book1\\_Times4.pdf](http://www.carriereducation.com/downloads1/Other4SpecialAssgns/CPPTI_Book1_Times4.pdf)

## **New Semester Schedule:**

In order to allow the CIS-115 Resource site to be versatile, that is usable for 16 week as well as 8 week classes, the last few weeks are presented at a slower pace. This means that in some of the last weeks, the assignments are broken out over two weeks allowing more time for students to absorb the difficult materials found in later chapters in the textbook. As instructors, you are allowed to modify the timing of these schedules as long as the core material of the class is still covered. Feel free to add additional assignments if you feel your particular class can handle more work in the difficult chapters.

## **Mobius SLIP:**

The steps to login and begin using Mobius:

1. Go here <http://www.mobiusslip.com/>
2. Login in using the credentials provided
3. Once logged in click on your class and observe the assignments posted
4. If you have any questions on using the system please contact Jim Carrier, PhD or contact [support@mobiusslip.com](mailto:support@mobiusslip.com) via email.

## **“My Programming Lab” for Python:**

The steps to clone a section in “My Programming Lab”

1. Log in to MyProgrammingLab.
2. Open an existing class where you are the teacher.
3. Click the question mark in the upper right hand corner which will lead you to help.
4. On the left hand side find Section Management and look for Clone This Section.
5. Click on Clone This Section.
6. On the screen where you see Cloning was Successful, choose the correct Course Term from the dropdown lists beside Course Term, and name your class CIS-115-FJWxx for example.
7. Once all the data on this screen is correct and current, choose "save changes".
8. Once the screen named "Your Modifications Have Been Saved" appears you are done.
9. Log out and back in to see your new class.

## Corrections:

If you find anything which needs correcting please do not hesitate to let me know at [jacARRIER@gtcc.edu](mailto:jacARRIER@gtcc.edu)

Thanks in advance.  
Jim

Jim Carrier, Ph.D.  
Professor  
Computer Technologies  
Guilford Technical Community College

## Additions:

**August 14, 2015:** The email turnaround policy was updated today after we were informed in the faculty meeting that we should use a uniform policy for the entire department. The syllabus in the CIS-115 resource site was updated accordingly.

**August 14, 2015:** The interim division chair was announced yesterday and the syllabus in the CIS-115 resource site was updated accordingly.

## Links to Original Documents:

What is due and when.xlsx

[http://www.carriereducation.com/downloads1/other4specialassgns/August\\_17\\_2015\\_CIS-115\\_Schedule\\_3.xlsx](http://www.carriereducation.com/downloads1/other4specialassgns/August_17_2015_CIS-115_Schedule_3.xlsx)

Final Specifications.docx

[http://www.carriereducation.com/downloads1/Other4SpecialAssgns/Final\\_Project\\_ISBN.doc](http://www.carriereducation.com/downloads1/Other4SpecialAssgns/Final_Project_ISBN.doc)