

## UCOR 111: Problem Solving, 21281 Section 01, Spring 2018

### Course Details

Instructor: Lisa Over

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Office Hours: TR 9:15 – 10:15 in room 929 Rockwell Hall  
TR 12:45 – 2:15 in room 432 College Hall

Class: UCOR 111 Problem Solving

Class Time: TR 10:50-12:05  
722 Fisher Hall

Text: *Crossing the River with Dogs: Problem Solving for College Students*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, by Johnson, Herr, Kysh

Materials: **Calculator\*, plain and lined paper, pencils**  
Bring your calculator to class every day!  
\*Calculator capable of adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing.  
The Casio fx-300ES PLUS is about \$10 and easy to use.

Website: <https://duquesne.blackboard.com>

### Course Description

Welcome to Problem Solving! Problem solving involves gathering and organizing information about a problem and planning steps that will lead to a solution to the problem. Gathering, organizing, and planning are steps in the problem-solving process, and each of these steps can be very different from one problem to the next. The goal of this class is for you to design the gathering, organizing, and planning process for a variety of problems both in collaboration with others and on your own. To help you reach this goal, you will learn and practice many techniques and strategies in class that you can apply to solve problems now and in the future.

You will demonstrate your understanding of the course material by communicating your problem-solving process through write ups and oral presentations. Homework, quizzes, and exams may include one of both venues.

I'm looking forward to working with you this semester. Please don't hesitate to take advantage of my office hours.

## Course Grades

The grade you earn in this course will reflect the knowledge and skills you choose to master and will be based on the following criteria:

*Homework (15%):* Homework includes approximately one problem set per chapter. Becoming a good problem solver involves solving problems! Truly mastering the course requires conscientiously completing the homework on your own, actively reviewing solutions, and seeking help from a tutor or myself to correct misconceptions. Collaboration is allowed, but the write up of the problems must be in your own words. Homework is due at the beginning of class on the specified due date and late work will not be accepted. Homework must be orderly and legible. Two assignments will be dropped and will not count toward the final grade. *Note:* I will not drop assignments until the end of the semester.

*Participation (20%):* Attendance in this class is crucial to individual and group performance. Each student is allowed three unexcused absences. Legitimate written documentation is required after three. Participation also involves three oral solution presentations.

*Quizzes (25%):* Weekly quizzes will be given on the chapter reading and problems. These quizzes will be administered in class and will involve a thorough write up of the solution to a problem. These quizzes are designed to help you prepare for exams. Truly mastering the course requires conscientiously completing the quizzes on your own, actively reviewing the feedback and solutions, and seeking help from a tutor or myself to correct misconceptions. No make-up quizzes are permitted without legitimate, written documentation. Two quizzes will be dropped and will not count toward the final grade. *Note:* I will not drop assignments until the end of the semester.

*Exams (40%):* Two closed-book, in-class exams will be given: midterm and final. The exams will not simply be an exercise in memorization; test items will require an ability to apply the strategies covered in the course to solve novel problems. Exams will involve a thorough write up of the solution to several problems. No make-up exams are permitted without legitimate, written documentation.

*Extra Credit.* Extra credit may be offered to the entire class. There will be no individual opportunities for extra credit to compensate for poor performance. Dropped scores are designed to accommodate you for any technical issues or personal circumstances that interfere with your attention to this class.

*Grading Scale.* End of semester grades will be administered according to the following percentage breakdown.

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
A	92 to 100	C+	78 to 79
A-	90 to 91	C	70 to 77
B+	88 to 89	D	62 to 69
B	82 to 87	F	< 62
B-	80 to 81		

## Course Policies

*Academic Integrity.* Although I encourage you to work with your peers on assignments and other course matters, you are still required to submit individual solution sets to Connect. Copying another student's assignment or having another student complete your work for you is considered cheating and will result in a 0 for that assignment. Any student found talking, regardless of the topic, during an examination will receive an F on the examination. Any student found cheating or assisting others during an examination will receive an F for this course and will be subject to further sanctions. More information regarding the University's Academic Integrity Policy can be found at: <http://www.duq.edu/student-conduct/code-of-conduct/academic-integrity.cfm>.

*Information for Students with Special Needs.* Duquesne University is committed to providing all students with equal access to learning. If you have a disability requiring accommodations, you must register with the Office of Freshman Development and Special Student Services in 309 Duquesne Union (412-396-6657) in order to receive reasonable accommodations in this course. Once a disability is officially documented by this office, and with your permission, instructors will receive letters outlining the reasonable accommodations they are required to make. Once I have received this letter, you and I should meet to coordinate the implementation of these accommodations. More information can be found at <http://www.duq.edu/special-students/policies.cfm>.

If your accommodations include a quiet testing environment, you are responsible for contacting me in advance to make arrangements for you to complete the assessment. If your accommodations include extra time for assessments, I will add extensions to your assessments but you must contact me in advance to make arrangements to start early, to stay late, or to establish a separate time and place for you to complete the assessment.

*Calculators.* Calculators may be used for homework, quizzes, and exams. Any basic calculator capable of adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing is the minimum requirement. You may not use the calculators on your cell phones or PED's (see Academic Integrity Policies above) nor may you share calculators with other students during the course of a quiz or exam.

*Cell Phone Policy.* As a courtesy to the instructor and other students, all personal electronic devices must be silenced throughout class meetings.

A student who is found using a personal electronic device during class can expect the following sanctions:

*First offense* - warning.

*Second offense* - dismissal from class for the remainder of the class period.

The instructor will decide whether or not the student will be allowed to make up any graded work performed during the remainder of the period. If the course has an attendance policy, the class will be counted as an absence.

Beyond the second offense - suspension from class attendance for a length of time to be determined by the instructor, up to and including the remainder of the semester. The instructor will decide the extent to which the student will be allowed to make up any

graded work performed during the missed classes. All suspended classes will be counted as absences if the course has an attendance policy.

A student who is found using a personal electronic device during a quiz, exam, or other graded event in class can expect the following sanctions:

*First offense* a 0 grade on the work in question is the minimum sanction, but anything up to and including failure in the course is possible. The specific sanction will be chosen by the instructor based on factors such as the percentage of the course grade based on the graded event, whether the student has had other Academic Integrity violations, and the like. Per College Academic Integrity policy, the Department Chair and/or Graduate Program Director (in the case of graduate courses) must be consulted before failing a student.

*Second offense* failure in the course, again after consulting with the Chair or Graduate Director. Any associated reduction in grade will be reported to various entities within the University as required by the College and University Academic Integrity policies.