

ABET Course Committee Review Report

COP 3014 (Programming I)

February 9, 2018

Course review committee members:

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1. Were there any problems with the course last year? If Yes, describe the problems.

Yes. For the last few years, the course was taught using Microsoft Visual Studio as the Integrated Development Environment (IDE). However Microsoft has been continually decreasing support for standard C++ libraries in favor of Microsoft-proprietary libraries. We also have an increasing number of students using a Mac and recent releases of Visual Studio Community Edition do not work as expected on a Mac. While FSU does provide students with Visual Studio as a part of the Virtual Lab, it is the 2012 edition that does not support C++ 11 features.

We also continue to experience a large number of Honor Code violations.

2. Course committee recommendations to current/future instructors.

It is recommended that we start using CLion, an IDE by JetBrains, as the alternative to Microsoft Visual Studio. This software is available for all platforms (Windows/Mac/Linux) and supports standard C++. Students and faculty can apply for a free academic license. This software has a milder learning curve and is more intuitive, allowing students to concentrate on course material.

The course committee recommends that instructors should run a software plagiarism detector on program submissions and follow university procedures for Honor Code violations. Regular enforcement should help in containing the number of Honor Code violations.

3. Course committee recommendations to department/UCC regarding this course.

The review committee agreed to maintain the policy of having only full-time faculty teach this course. The committee also suggests some streamlining to ensure that the on-campus and the distance learning version of the course (taught by faculty at Panama City, FL) are aligned. Making sure that both versions use the same curricular file syllabus and software would ensure easier transitions between instructors.

4. Other noteworthy changes.

We have introduced a new variant of COP 3014, COP 3363, which is essentially the same class. However, this class is taught in the Unix environment and is intended for Computer Science majors. Students who pass COP 3363 also automatically satisfy the Unix requirement and do not have to take COP 3353 (Introduction to Unix).