

MART 120 Creative Coding 1 Syllabus Spring 2025

Instructor: Cory McKague
Office: McGill 233
Office Hours: By appt or
Tu:11-12
Wed:11-12
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Overview:

This course teaches coding in an introductory manner so that it can become a tool for art, creativity, and fun.

The goal is to begin a journey in which you use the computer to expand your creative and technical possibilities. I want your computer to be another tool in your creative palate. These tools will become an extension of you, something you think through, express yourself through, and can contribute to the world through.

The course design offers you a deeper understanding of the essential possibilities of computation.

The course focuses on the fundamentals of programming the computer (variables, conditionals, iteration, functions, and objects) while also touching on a few advanced topics and relating this all to the creative and expressive possibilities of media art and the beginning of game design and programming. We start by using several "visually-based" programming languages, and then we will transition into a JavaScript-based, 'p5.js', programming framework. The course concludes with your design, development, and implementation of a final project of your choosing.

Navigation:

Instruction will be through the course website and assignments will be due on Canvas each week in the form of a link to your github. These steps will be addressed as the course progresses. This course is exclusively online. As such, the expectation is that you engage with all content throughout this site. However, I will be here to help along the way too!

Asking for Help:

Cory McKague is the primary resource for questions, and we have a TA for the course as well. However, the best way to learn about coding is looking it up and learning the best way that works for you. We also have our discord which is a great way to ask for help from your fellow classmates. Odds are, if you have a question so does your fellow classmates!

Attendance:

This is an online course. But you will have assignments **due each week by Monday 11:59**. As well as discussion posts on our community discord.

Late Assignments:

Late assignments will not be accepted. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Submit all assignments through Canvas assignments as links to your github. If you have trouble with your submission, please send them to cory.mckague@mso.umt.edu

Your subject must be MART 120 Assignment # (e.g., MART 341 Assignment

Grading Scale

100-93	A
93-90	A
89-87	B+
86-84	B
83-80	B
79-77	C+
76-74	C
73-70	C
69-67	D+
66-64	D
63-60	D
59-below	F

P/NP – pass/no pass, 70 or higher is passing determined by the School of Media Arts

policy, which is a C or better.

Grading:

Weekly Assignments/HW: 70%

Discussion Posts: 15%

Final Project: 15%

**The Final Project is mandatory, failure to complete the final project results in a failing grade

Suggestions:

It will be beneficial to read your specific text and ask as many questions as you can! Feel free to set up an appointment if you need help. I am here to help you and rely on the class discord.

Incompletes:

"Incomplete for the course is not an option to be exercised at the discretion of students. In all cases it is given at the discretion of the instructor...." Some guidelines for receiving an incomplete are listed in the catalog which include having a **passing grade up to three weeks before the end of the semester** and being in attendance. **"Negligence and indifference are not acceptable reasons."** Also note that there may be financial aid implications.

Late Drops:

The University's policy on drops after **45** days of instruction is very specific. The School of Visual and Media Arts follows this policy rigorously. There are five circumstances under which a late drop might be approved: registration errors, accident or illness, family emergency, change in work schedule, no assessment of performance in class after this deadline. Except in very unusual circumstances, I will only approve late drops if there is documented justification for one of these circumstances.

Land Acknowledgement:

The Séliš-Qlispé Cultural Committee created the language, "The University of Montana acknowledges that we are in the aboriginal territories of the Salish and Kalispel people Today, we honor the path they have always shown us in caring for this place for the generations to come."

Inclusion Policies:

The University of Montana values leadership, engagement, diversity, and sustainability, because our institution is committed to respect, welcome, encourage, and celebrate the differences among us. As members of the University of Montana community, we aspire to:

- Respect the dignity and rights of all persons.
- Practice honesty, trustworthiness, and academic integrity.

- Promote justice, learning, individual success, and service.
- Act as good stewards of institutional resources.
- Respect the natural environment.

The College of the Arts and Media at the University of Montana, has chosen to actively pursue equity and access for all persons. In this charge we will be researching, planning, and implementing ways in which our culture can be more accessible, inclusive, equitable, sustainable. It is not enough to be anti-bias in principle without being equitable in action. We will implement these actions organized by a group of students, faculty, and staff across the entire College in an ongoing way.

Student Support Resources

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code

"This Code of Conduct embodies and promotes honesty, integrity, accountability, and duties associated with citizenship as a student in our community at the University of Montana. This Code exists to protect the interests of the community and dignity of its members, and to challenge those behaviors which are not in accordance with our policies".

The Code is available for review online at <https://www.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/student-code-of-conduct-2021-pdf>

Accommodations

"Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting the DSS office. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). For more information, please consult

<http://www.umt.edu/disability>. " provides one-on-one tutoring to

The Writing and Public Speaking Center students at all levels and at any time in the writing process. Visit now. Visit often.

We're ready when you are. www.umt.edu/writingcenter.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy: The University of Montana is committed to advancing the mental health and wellbeing of its students. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of support, services are available. For help, visit

<https://www.umt.edu/diversity/resources/mental-health.php>

Stay connected:

Please join SVMA social media to stay informed about events and happenings in our school.

- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/umt_svma/
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UMTsvma>

Class Etiquette:

- Be respectful of your classmates.
- Call me anytime if you have a question.
- Profanity and Obscenity will not be tolerated in class or assignments.