Overview

CSCI 150 is an introductory course in computer science, with an emphasis on problem solving using the Java programming language. We want our students to gain exposure to the topics that are the foundation of computer science, such as algorithm design, program organization, recursion and induction, object-oriented programming, and data structures. Java is the principal programming language, but this is not a course on Java. No programming experience whatsoever is expected.

Students completing CSCI 150 will not only be well-equipped to pursue further coursework in computer science and related disciplines, but will also have the reasoning and logic skills useful in disciplines as varied as law, medicine, and business.

Materials

We are using Reges and Stepp’s *Building Java Programs*, published by Addison Wesley, 2008. In general, we’ll follow the book somewhat closely, but there will definitely be times when we diverge. In any case, it is a good idea to read the designated sections of the text before appropriate class.

The website lists many online resources that may come in handy.

We will be using JDK 1.5 as our official compiler. You are welcome to use any compiler you wish for your assignments, so long as it also compiles with our JDK 1.5.

Course Requirements

Students are responsible for all material in the assigned readings, as well as material covered in lectures. There will be ten(ish) labs, most with a required prelab. The prelabs will generally consist of written exercises that must be completed before the programming component is started. There will be two midterm exams, one final exam, and regular pop quizzes that we may or may not tell you about. Exams will cover material presented in class and will require you to do some heavy thinking on your feet. The pop quizzes will test you on what you learned in the last day or so. Your grade will consist of the following.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labs and Prelabs</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterms</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance, Participation, and Quizzes</td>
<td>5%</td>
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Attendance

Attendance at the labs is mandatory. A portion of your lab grade will be for attendance. Although lecture attendance is not mandatory, it is hard to participate when you are not there.

Webpage

Please see the course web page for the most up-to-date info on our schedule, assignments, office hours, and policies.

Late Policy

Late prelabs will not be accepted. This is because the prelabs are needed in order to begin the week’s lab, and therefore solutions must be handed out at the first lab on Monday. We will generally grade the prelabs between Monday morning’s class and the afternoon lab.

Late labs are strongly discouraged. We would really rather you hand in your labs on time, but we understand that things can go wrong at the last minute. You may hand in up to two labs one day late, after which we will choose a fitting penalty.

Please start your labs as early as possible, even if it is just to read over the questions. We will try to tell you which portions of the assignment you are able to do as the material is covered, incrementally, to help you start early.

If for some reason (such as illness) you are unable to complete a lab or take a test, please talk to one of the instructors as soon as possible. We will handle them on a case-by-case basis.

Tutors

There are tutors available, provided by Oberlin College. If you think you’d like such a tutor, just contact us and we’ll hook you up.

Public Lab Facilities

For public access to JEdit, Emacs, Vim, and Java, you may use the labs in King 135 and King 201. You’ll need to see Jackie Fortino in King 223 to get access to these labs.

Student Disabilities

If you require special accommodation (such as additional time to complete exams), please speak to me during the first week of class so that she has time to make suitable arrangements. You must be registered with Laura Slocum Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities.
Honor Code

We take the honor code very seriously, and will report any violations to the Honor Code Committee. In general, it is OK to talk with other students about the labs, but you have to be very careful about how much you collaborate. Discussing an algorithm, approach, or general form of code is acceptable. However, cooperation should never involve other students possessing a copy of all, or a portion of, your work, regardless of format. As a rule of thumb, try not to write or type anything down; you should be able to recreate your discussion without anyone’s help. Please do not hand in work done with (or by) someone else under your own name. The course staff are very skilled at finding similarities in code, so please don’t break the rules. We trust you, and hope this trust won’t be violated. If you are unsure about anything, please ask.

We will sometimes have labs that allow joint work with a partner. We will tell you when this is permissible, and we will outline the rules when that time comes.

You must write the Honor Pledge and sign at the end of each and every submission. Electronic submissions must include the honor pledge in the comments and your name. The pledge is

“I affirm that I have adhered to the Honor Code in this assignment.”

Notes:

- Cite any and all sources you use, including the TA’s, the text, or the Internet.
- You may not remove your partner’s name from an assignment unless you do not use each other’s work.
- You may not share your homework or solutions with students in subsequent semesters.
- The programs, exams, and other work that you submit must generate the entire output you submit in your assignments.
- All exams are closed book, unless noted otherwise.
- You may not assist or receive help from any other student during an exam.
- Contact a member of the course staff immediately if you suspect a violation of the Honor Code.
- We may assign a 0 on the item in question, or a 0 in the course if we deem it suitable.