

Instructor Info

Call her: Alexa (Sharp)
Office: King 223 E
Tel: x5-8831

Email: alexa.sharp@oberlin.edu
Office Hours: MTW 1-2:30pm

Overview

CS 150 is an introductory course in computer science, with an emphasis on problem solving. In this course, students gain exposure to many of the fundamental concepts 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 CS 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.

Course Resources

We are using the second edition of Reges and Stepp's *Building Java Programs*, published by Addison Wesley, 2008. The first edition suffices, but you would be responsible for the differences.

The current schedule, readings, class code, labs, and announcements will be posted on the course website, which can be found at www.cs.oberlin.edu/~asharp/cs150/index.html.

For public access to computers with Java and other programs you'll need, you may use the labs in King 135 and 201. You'll need to see Jackie Fortino in King 223 to get access to these labs.

Course Requirements

Eleven labs — expect to spend roughly 8-10 hours per week outside of class on these.

Ten prelabs — expect to spend an hour on each prelab before you start the lab proper.

Two in-class tests — expect some algorithmic thinking and coding questions.

One final exam — expect a longer, cumulative test.

Weekly lab attendance — expect to be at each lab until told otherwise.

Labs and Prelabs	60%
Midterms	14%
Final Exam	16%
Attendance and Participation	10%

Late Policy

Late prelabs will not be accepted.

Late labs are strongly discouraged. You may hand up to two labs one day late, after which we will choose a fitting penalty.

If for some reason (such as illness) you are unable to complete a lab or take a test, please talk to the instructor immediately. We handle these situations on a case-by-case basis.

Outside Help

There are many opportunities for you to learn the course material outside of our scheduled class and lab times. We are excited to provide two fantastic peer learning facilitators (PLFs), Claire Nelson and Ike McCreery, who will lead weekly workshops involving a bit of lecture and a bit of extra problem solving practice. **These are not office hours.** Attendance is not mandatory, but it is such a great opportunity for learning that I will award bonus points for attendance.

For help on your labs, we have many weekend and evening lab helpers whose job it is to answer questions in the lab. See the website for their schedule.

Finally, there are peer tutors available, provided by Oberlin College. If you think you'd like such a tutor, just contact us and we'll help hook you up.

Student Disabilities

If you require special accommodation (such as additional time to complete exams), please speak to us during the first week of class so that we have time to make suitable arrangements. You must be registered with the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities.

Honor Code

I 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, when working with others, 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, including from previous semesters. 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.

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 of at least one of your files and your name. The pledge is

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

Please go to the course website to view in full how the honor code is interpreted for this course.
