CS 161: Introduction to Computer Science
Spring 2016

Course Goals

Welcome to CS 161: Introduction to Computer Science. This course has three primary goals:

1. To provide students with an introduction to the basics of computer programming
2. To develop students' problem-solving and logical-thinking skills
3. To familiarize students with the types of questions asked, and techniques used, in the field of computer science

The Java programming language will serve as a means for us to achieve these goals.

At the end of this course, students should be able to write a medium-sized computer program to accomplish some goal, to systematically track down and identify errors, and to appreciate the intricacy of the growing web of computer networks, computer applications, and computer systems that our society is becoming increasingly dependent upon.

This course is intended for students with no prior experience with computer programming.

Administrative Details

Instructor: Prof. Chambers (alchambers@pugetsound.edu, Thompson 405)

Office Hours: MW 2:30pm – 4:00pm, Thur 1:15pm – 2:45pm or by appointment. If my door is open, even if it's not official "office hours", you are more than welcome to stop by.

Course Time and Place: MWF 9 – 9:50am in Thompson 409

Lab Time and Place: Thursday 9 – 10:50am in Thompson 409

Course webpage: `http://mathcs.pugetsound.edu/~alchambers/cs161`

Textbook: Lewis and Loftus. *Java Software Solutions.* 8th Edition. (Required)

Note on availability: I'm not available on Tuesdays and I don't respond to emails late at night or on Saturdays.

Course Breakdown

Grading: Grades in the course are based on four components:

40%	Homework Assignments
30%	Midterm Exams (2)
20%	Final Exam
10%	Weekly Labs

Readings: Each class period will have a corresponding reading assignment taken from the textbook. *It is imperative that you get into the habit of doing the reading!* Many confusions and difficulties can be resolved by simply doing the reading. I recommend that you do the reading before class or as soon after class as possible. The readings for each class are posted on the course webpage under "Lectures".

Weekly Labs: The weekly lab provides hands-on programming practice while I and student TAs are available to answer questions. Lab attendance is mandatory and after two absences your final grade will be affected.

Homework Assignments: Homework assignments are more substantial projects than lab assignments. Homeworks will be due on Mondays and you will typically have 1-2 weeks to complete each assignment.

Tests: There will be two in-class midterm exams and a final exam at the end of the semester. The final exam is scheduled for May 11th at 8am. Please do not buy your plane tickets until after our scheduled final exam. Details will be given closer to the exam dates.

Course Policies

Late Policy

Late homework assignments will be penalized by $3^n\%$ for $n \leq 4$ where n is the number of days the assignment is submitted late. The only extensions[1] given are for unexpected medical or family emergencies.

In-Class Policies

Please do not bring your laptops to class. If you have an accommodation in which you require a laptop, please let me know. For most class periods, I will use the white board. There are no posted powerpoint slides or lecture notes. If you miss class, please ask a fellow student if you can copy their class notes. It should go without saying that class attendance is mandatory.

Academic Accommodations

Last but not least, if you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Peggy Perno, Director of the Office of Student Accessibility and Accommodations, Howarth 105, pperno@pugetsound.edu, 253.879.3395. She will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

Let's have a great semester!

[1] An extension is when a student is allowed to turn in an assignment after the due date with no penalty