

# COMP 401

## COURSE OVERVIEW

**Instructor: Prasan Dewan (FB 150, [help401@cs.unc.edu](mailto:help401@cs.unc.edu))**

Course page:

<http://www.cs.unc.edu/~dewan/comp401/current/>



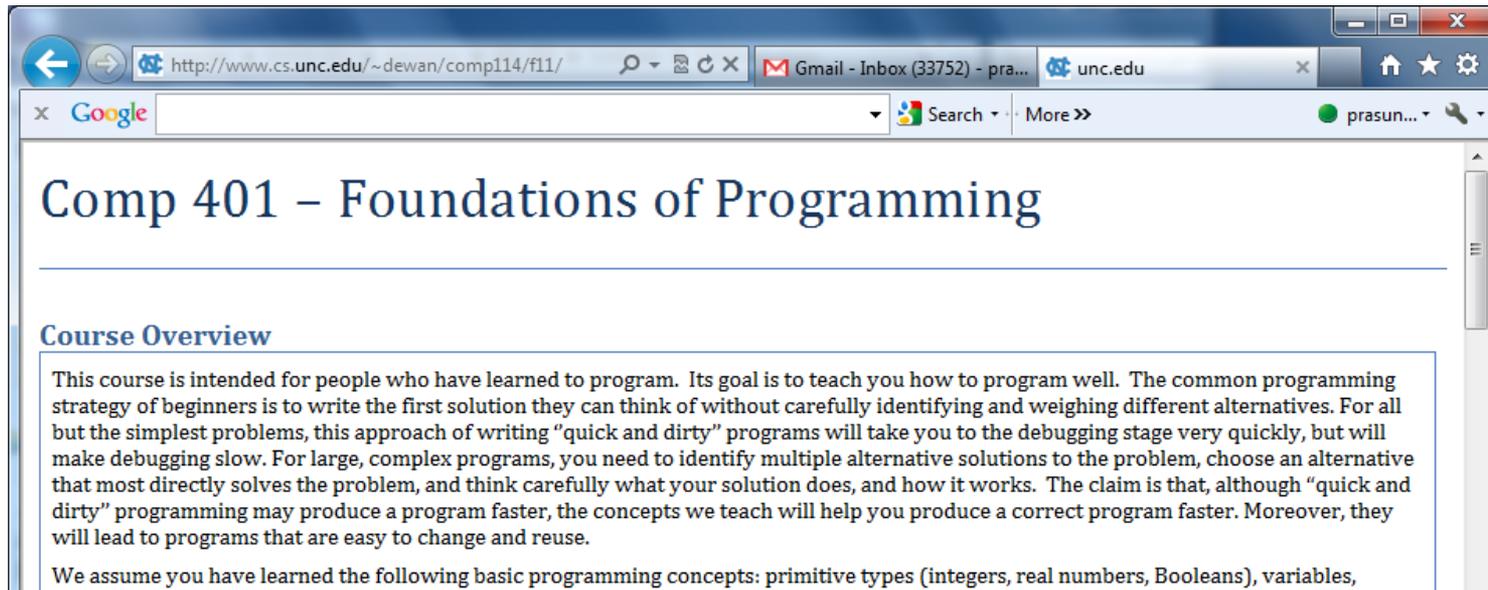
# NOT IN COURSE?

About 20% of class drops in 2 weeks

Put your name, PID and email in one of the passed sheets (even if you are in the course)



# COURSE PAGE



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the following details:

- Address bar: <http://www.cs.unc.edu/~dewan/comp114/f11/>
- Search bar: Google
- Page Title: **Comp 401 – Foundations of Programming**
- Section Header: **Course Overview**
- Text: 

This course is intended for people who have learned to program. Its goal is to teach you how to program well. The common programming strategy of beginners is to write the first solution they can think of without carefully identifying and weighing different alternatives. For all but the simplest problems, this approach of writing “quick and dirty” programs will take you to the debugging stage very quickly, but will make debugging slow. For large, complex programs, you need to identify multiple alternative solutions to the problem, choose an alternative that most directly solves the problem, and think carefully what your solution does, and how it works. The claim is that, although “quick and dirty” programming may produce a program faster, the concepts we teach will help you produce a correct program faster. Moreover, they will lead to programs that are easy to change and reuse.
- Text: 

We assume you have learned the following basic programming concepts: primitive types (integers, real numbers, Booleans), variables,

Linked from my home page (google my name to find it) and UNC course pages



# DETAILED OVERVIEW: COURSE SYLLABUS

## Course Overview

This course is intended for people who have learned to program. Its goal is to teach you how to program well. The common programming strategy of beginners is to write the first solution they can think of without carefully identifying and weighing different alternatives. For all but the simplest problems, this approach of writing quick and dirty programs will take you to the debugging stage very quickly, but will make debugging slow. For large, complex programs, you need to identify multiple alternative solutions to the problem, choose an alternative that most directly solves the problem, and think carefully what your solution does, and how it works. The claim is that, although quick and dirty programming may produce a program faster, the concepts we teach will help you produce a correct program faster. Moreover, they will lead to programs that are easy to change and reuse.

We assume you have learned the following basic programming concepts: primitive types (integers, real numbers, Booleans), variables, constants, assignments, comments, expressions, arrays, loops, arrays, and procedures/functions/methods. These concepts are taught in most if not all introductory programming courses regardless of whether they teach conventional or object-oriented programming. This course will teach you the next-level programming concepts. These include objects, classes, interfaces, packages, inheritance, delegation, design patterns, exceptions, assertions, pointers, and formal correctness. These concepts will not help you solve new problems; rather, they will help you solve problems in new ways. The skills that will enable you to use these concepts will form a large part of the challenge you face in this course. After this course, you will have a much deeper understanding of the programming and learn some of the ideas that can make programming a science. We will be using Java as a vehicle for learning these concepts.

## [Course Syllabus in UNC Format](#)

[Fall 2012 Comp 401 Offering](#)

[Fall 2007 Comp 110 \(Using Object Editor\) Offering by Sasa Junuzovic](#)

[Fall 2011 Comp 110 \(with ObjectEditor and Eclipse Helper\) Offering by Jason Carter](#)



# CLASS MATERIAL

Audience	Unit ( LAST YEAR Start Date)	Recorded PPTX Slides	PDF Slides	Chapters (Not always current with PPT)	Videos	LAST YEAR Assignments	Source Code of Examples (Java Package)
401	Course Information (8/24)	<a href="#">PowerPoint</a>	<a href="#">PDF</a>	<a href="#">Course Overview</a>			
110 and 401	Eclipse Install and Basic Use (Look on your own)	<a href="#">PowerPoint</a>	<a href="#">PDF</a>	<a href="#">Warm-up Chapter</a>			
110 and 401	ObjectEditor	<a href="#">PowerPoint</a>	<a href="#">PDF</a>	<a href="#">Warm-up</a>			
401							
401	Debugging in	<a href="#">PowerPoint</a>	<a href="#">PDF</a>	<a href="#">Warm-up</a>			
401	programming in Java for those who know conventional programming			<a href="#">Chapter</a>			<a href="#">Package</a>

No book: a Java reference might help but is not necessary

Each unit has PPT slides (with recordings), Word document, and assignment

Both background (110) and class material



# SOURCE CODE LINKED TO CLASS MATERIAL

Object-first  
Introduction to  
Programming

[PowerPoint](#)

[PDF](#)

[Objects  
Chapter](#)

[lectures.objects Package](#)

Package lectures.objects

[ABMICalculator](#)

[ABMICalculator.1](#)

[ASquareCalculator](#)

[FunctionsDriver](#)

[SquareCalculatorDriver](#)

```
package lectures.objects;
import util.annotations.WebDocuments;

@WebDocuments({"Lectures/Objects.pptx", "Lectures/Objects.pdf", "Videos/Objects.avi"})
public class ABMICalculator {
    public double calculateBMI(double height, double weight) {
        return weight/(height*height);
    }
}
```

COMP 110/401  
OBJECTS

Instructor: Prasad Dewan



# SPECIAL SOURCE CODE BROWSER

## Source Code of Class Examples

[Zipped Directory](#)

[JavaToHTML](#)

[Java Source](#)

[All Classes](#)

[Packages](#)

[lectures.animation.loops](#)

[lectures.animation.mvc](#)

[lectures.animation.threads.synchronized\\_methods](#)

[lectures.animation.threads.ui](#)

[lectures.animation.threads.wait\\_notify](#)

[lectures.animation.threads\\_commands](#)

[lectures.arrays](#)

[All Classes](#)

[ABMIAndOverweightSpreadsheet](#)

[ABMICalculator](#)

[ABMICalculator.1](#)

[ABMICalculatorWithErrors](#)

[ABMISpreadsheetWithPublicVariables](#)

## ABMICalculator.1.java

```
package lectures.objects;
import util.annotations.WebDocuments;
@WebDocuments({"Lectures/Objects.pptx", "Lectures/Objects.pdf", "Videos/Ob
public class ABMICalculator {
    // weight is in Kgs, height in metres
    public double calculateBMI(double height, double weight) {
        return weight/(height*height);
    }
}
```



# LINKED ASSIGNMENTS

401	Scanning (8/24)	<a href="#">PowerPoint</a>	<a href="#">PDF</a>	<a href="#">Warm-up Chapter</a>		<a href="#">Number List Processor</a> <a href="#">Number and Command Scanner</a>	<a href="#">lectures.scanning Package</a>
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First assignment is due next week, so start on it ASAP ( on the web site)

Will help you decide if you belong in this class



# COMP 401 VS. 110

401

110

CS Majors

Psychology,  
Biology, ...

Object-Oriented

Functional,  
Imperative, ...

Java

C++, Python, ...

- Majors vs. Non Majors?
  - Majors usually start with 401
  - But many 110 students become majors.
- Object-oriented vs. Conventional?
  - Both 401 and (current) 110 focus on objects.
- Java vs. Non-Java?
  - 110 and 401 are both in Java
  - Language is not the issue
  - Expected to use only those Java features taught in class
  - Course is not about Java



# COMP 401 vs. 110

401

110

Intermediate

Introductory

- “Intermediate” vs. “introductory” programming
  - Introductory may be object-oriented
  - Introductory may be conventional
  - *Assume background in conventional programming and will teach Java syntax for it.*
  - Repetition for those who know object-oriented programming.



# INTRODUCTORY CONVENTIONAL PROGRAMMING

- Types, variables, assignment , constants, expression
- Conditionals, loops.
- Input and output
- Arrays/Strings
- Procedures/Functions/Subroutines/Methods
- Comments
- Program vs. algorithm



# LAYERED ASSIGNMENTS = PROJECT

Assignment 4

Assignment 3

Assignment 2

Assignment 1

Assignments will build on each other to create a semester project

Due dates normally separated by a week (holidays, exams can cause more separation)



# WORKING VS. ALMOST WORKING

Big difference between getting code working and almost working

Big differences in grades also

Very little partial credit if program not working

Errors will accumulate because of layered assignments



# GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Exams (Two midterms, no final)	44%
Assignments (Home work)	46%
Recitation (Class work)	10%
Fudge Factor (Class participation, other factors)	10%

No final!



# TWO SUBMISSION DATES

## Comp 401 - Assignment 1: Writing a Number Scanner

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**Date Assigned: Tue Aug 20, 2013**

**Completion Date: Fri Aug 30, 2013 (11:59 pm)**

**Early Submission Date: Wed Aug 28, 2013 (11:59 pm)**

In this assignment, you will revise your programming skills by doing an assignment involving the use of many of the concepts that are a pre-requisite for this course, which

Extra credit if submitted early on a Wednesday

This program reads input in a loop until the user enters a special “end of input” line.

Normal submission date is a Friday



# EXTRA CREDIT PROGRAMMING

## Extra Credit

Allow (a) a number to be succeeded or preceded by a variable number of blanks as in " 2  
456 25 3000 " (b) an arbitrary number of numbers in a line. Do not terminate the program  
after encountering the first illegal (unexpected) character. Print the illegal character and continue  
scanning assuming the character had not been input.

Students have varying interests and abilities

Make up or insurance against bad grade in other assignments or exams

Better to give early without extra credit than late with

But if you are already late, might as well do extra credit to make up for late  
points



# LAYERED ASSIGNMENTS = PROJECT

Assignment 4

Assignment 3

Assignment 2

Assignment 1

Assignment 4 Due Date

Assignment 3 Due Date

Assignment 2 Due Date

Assignment 1 Due Date

Can submit up to two class days (1 week) late with penalty



# SHIFTING DATES

Assignment 4

Assignment 3

Assignment 2

Assignment 1

Assignment 4 Due Date

Assignment 3 Due Date

Assignment 2 Due Date

Assignment 1 Due Date

What if you get permanently behind?

Can shift assignment dates  $N$  times if last  $N$  assignments will not be done.

But you sacrifice the last  $N$  assignments, whose scores will go in fudge factor.



# SKIPPING ONCE

Assignment 3

Assignment 2

Assignment 1

Assignment 4 Due Date

Assignment 3 Due Date

Assignment 2 Due Date

Assignment 1 Due Date



# SKIPPING TWICE

Assignment 2

Assignment 1

Assignment 4 Due Date

Assignment 3 Due Date

Assignment 2 Due Date

Assignment 1 Due Date

Do submit sacrifice assignments if you catch up – will take this work into account in fudge factor



# CONSTRAINTS

## Constraints

1. Java has libraries that make the writing of this program trivial. The only library functions you should use are the `Character.isDigit()`, `substring()` and the `Integer.parseInt()` functions. `Character.isDigit()` is like `Character.isUppercase()` except that it tells us whether a character is a digit rather than whether it is an uppercase letter. `substring()`, applicable to any string, is explained in the class material. `Integer.parseInt()` takes a string consisting of digits and converts into an

Forbid use of certain Java libraries

2. You should store the numbers you scan into an array for later use. This

Goal is not to teach Java and its libraries

should not write a main method. This will demonstrate your ability to

It is to teach you how to build these libraries

Usually Java features not covered in class will be banned

Require use of certain programming techniques

Correctness is only one of the goals

Program must also be efficient and well crafted



# GETTING HELP

Can discuss solutions with each other at a high level

Not at the code level

Sharing of code is honor code violation

Can help each other with debugging as long as it does not lead to code sharing

Assignments may contain solution in English (read only if stuck)



# PIAZZA FOR GETTING HELP AND CLASS DISCUSSION

## Getting Help and Class Discussion

We will be using Piazza for class discussion and getting help. The system is highly catered to getting you help fast and efficiently from classmates, the TA, and myself. Rather than emailing questions to the teaching staff, I encourage you to post your questions on Piazza. If you do not get a response within a day or two on Piazza, please send mail to [help401@cs.unc.edu](mailto:help401@cs.unc.edu). But try Piazza first. Do not send mail to an individual instructor, as that can overwhelm him - such mail will be ignored.

Before posing a question, please check if this question has been asked before. This will reduce post clutter and reduce our burden. Repeat questions will be ignored by the instructors.

Piazza allows anyone to respond. So if you see a question that you think you can respond to, please do so, as that will reduce our burden and help you "teach" your fellow students.

This will be a form of class participation that will be noted when I allocate my fudge points!

Hope it works well

If you have any problems or feedback for the developers, email [team@piazza.com](mailto:team@piazza.com).

Find our class page at: <https://piazza.com/unc/fall2013/comp401>



# DOS AND DON'TS

## Do

- Attend class even though material is online
- Look at class material if you have to miss class for extenuating circumstances or did not understand
- Use Piazza for questions
- Use [help401@cs.unc.edu](mailto:help401@cs.unc.edu) for grades and other private queries

## Don't

- Look at your laptop while in class unless it is to take notes
- Come to class late **or leave class early**
- Send mail to individual instructors

