Course Overview

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Fall 2011

What is this course about?

- Introduction to programming (with WWW emphasis)
  - Largely problem solving
  - Mostly independent of programming language

- Will help develop skills in:
  - Problem solving
    - Problem (vaguely specified; in English)
  - Algorithm development
    - Set of instructions
  - Coding
    - Getting it right
    - Javascript, Java
  - Understanding / appreciating abstractions
Learning objectives

- **Primary: to program**
  - Including appreciating abstractions

- **Secondary:**
  - Fluency in Information Technology (FIT)
    - Have a cocktail party familiarity with IT topics
    - Really, an intro to different aspects of Computer Science
  - Create a web page
    - Including text, graphics, links, interaction
  - Be prepared for COMP 401
    - If you want to major / minor in Computer Science
  - Find interesting stuff on the web & give oral report
  - Be curious
  - Have fun

Why Javascript, Java?

- **Not the:**
  - ☒ Best Languages
  - ☒ Easiest to learn

- **But,**
  - ☑ Current, modern, in use
  - ☑ Incorporate (most) modern features
  - ☑ Portable – work on most platforms
  - ☑ Hot

- **Why two languages?**
  - Differences help appreciate “fundamentals” vs. “features”
Is this the right course for you?

- If you already know how to program
  - Consider taking COMP 401 instead

- This course is not about:
  - Computer literacy: COMP 101
  - Computer & Society: COMP 380
  - Scientific Programming (Matlab): COMP 116
  - Detailed WWW programming: COMP 416

- There are other COMP 110 sections as well
  - Focus on Java only

- See me after class if you’re not sure

What prerequisites do you need?

- High-school math (e.g., area of circle)

- Familiarity with using a computer
  - Editor, browser, email, ...

- Ability to:
  - Read regularly
  - Work hard
Workload in this course

- Reading (especially at the beginning of the course)
- Writing programs
  - Very little prose writing involved (except for code documentation)
- Speaking (starting Aug 31)
  - 2-3 min presentation on something interesting (and appropriate!) you found on the web
  - 2 speakers will be chosen at random at start of class
- Warning:
  - Expect to spend at least 10-12 hours / week
  - Most of hard work comes after official drop period

Class attendance

- Attendance is mandatory (Friday recitations too!)
  - But I don’t take a roll
- I expect
  - You to attend
  - You to be responsible for stuff discussed in class
    - Both lectures and recitations
  - You to be prepared with the 2-3 min talk
  - You to keep up with handouts / announcements
- Please don’t contact me with a “did I miss anything?”
  - Unless you have a doctor's note in your hand
  - Or a documented personal emergency
Assignments & Exams

- There'll be an assignment due almost always
  - Most assignments will involve programming
    - Programs expected to be complete / functional
      - No partial credit
    - Every late day deducts 25% of grade
      - 15 min late ⇒ 1 late day; 24½ hours late ⇒ 2 late days
      - Solutions will be posted after 4 late days

- Exams:
  - 1 in-class mid-term: Oct 17 (tentative)
  - 1 final exam: Dec 9 (Fri), 12 – 3 pm
  - Closed notes
    - No need to memorize
    - If you are keeping up, very little study required

Grading (tentative)

- Assignments: ~ 55-60%
- Midterm Exam: ~ 10-15%
- Final Exam: ~ 25%
- Other stuff: ~ 5%
  - Can raise (or lower!) final grade, based on exemplary class participation
- I expect to give:
  - Lots of A's
  - Lots of F's
  - No IN
    - Given only under rare and special circumstances
**Honor Code**

- Easy to cheat
  - Also easy to detect! (And you will be prosecuted!)

- It's OK to:
  - Talk to each other about the lecture topics
  - Talk about assignment *requirements*
  - Work in groups on *recitation exercises only*
    - Including designing and coding these

- It's not OK to:
  - Talk to each other about assignment solutions
  - Share code

- You must design and write your own code for assignments!

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**Logistics**

- Class meetings (SN 014):
  - Lectures MW 11 am – 12:15 pm
  - Recitations (Fri): 11 – 11:50 am, 3 – 3:50 pm
  - Bring laptops to both
    - For class lectures, ½ laptop is enough

  - Schedule & slides
  - Handouts
  - Assignments
  - Software
  - ...

- We may use Blackboard for turning assignments in
Resources

- **References**
  - Snyder, “Fluency with Information Technology: Skills, Concepts, and Capabilities”, 4/E
    - An earlier edition would work as well
    - Optional (see below)
  - Harris, “JavaScript Programming for the Absolute Beginner”
    - Electronically available at UNC library (eBrary) for free
  - HTML, Javascript, Java references available online

- **Software:**
  - Browser (firefox, IE, ...)
  - Notepad (or similar editor)
  - Free: jGRASP, AFS client, Java IDE, Eclipse, ...

Instructor Contact

- Name: Jasleen Kaur
- Office hours (tentative):
  - Office: FB 136
  - Mon: 12:45 pm – 1:45 pm, Wed: 1:15 pm – 2:15 pm
- Email: jasleen@cs.unc.edu
  - Please start subject line with: “COMP 110: ”
- I will expect (before you come/write):
  - Class attendance
  - Basic understanding of lecture material
- Office hours – a better bet for getting fast response
  - May not respond soon to emails
    - you’ll need to start working on your assignments early
TAs

- Will get assigned by tomorrow (Thursday) evening
- Will meet you in the Friday recitations this week

Surviving COMP 110

- Allocate time, work hard
- Start early on assignments
  - Don’t wait till last minute – it won’t work!
  - Do something (even just think)
    - Sleep over it!
- Make use of resources
  - Recitations (Fridays)
  - Office hours
  - Email
- Have fun! 😊
Registering for the course

- The course is currently full
  - But typically several do drop out in first couple of days

- Registrar’s “wait-list” is GONE!
  - Wiped out on the first day of classes

- If you want to be added to a wait-list we’re maintaining:
  1. Send email to CS Department Registrar
     - Dorothy Thorpe-Turner (dtturner@cs.unc.edu)
  2. cc me (jasleen@cs.unc.edu)
  3. Include your PID

- As and when space becomes available
  - We will randomly add students from the wait-list
  - Let us know if you want to major / minor in CS!