Contact Info

Instructor: Tom Wexler, tom.wexler at oberlin.edu
Lab Instructor: Adam Eck, aeck at oberlin.edu
Office Hours: King 223, MF 1:30-3:00, T 10-11, or by appointment.

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. Python is the principal programming language, but this is not a course on Python. No programming experience whatsoever is expected.

Topics

Core topics: Expressions, Types, and Variables; Loops; Image Manipulation; Functions; Conditionals; Strings; Arrays; Boolean Logic and Circuits; Recursion; Induction; File I/O; Classes and Inheritance; Searching, Sorting, Asymptotic Running Time and Data Structures.

Textbook and Website


We will use clickers (specifically the i<clicker +) to facilitate participation and track attendance. Register your clicker via Blackboard.

The current schedule, readings, labs, and announcements will be posted on the course website, which can be found at www.cs.oberlin.edu/~wexler/cs150/150index.html. This course does not use Blackboard except for clicker registration.

For access to computers with Python, you may use the labs in King 135 and 201. Speak to Jackie Fortino in King 223 for the code. Only students currently taking a CS course may use the labs.

Course Requirements

- Twelve 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 – problem solving and coding questions. Sept. 30th and Nov. 11th.
• One final exam – a longer, cumulative test. Dec. 14th, 2-4pm.

• Class and lab attendance and participation.

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Homework Policy

Late labs are strongly discouraged. You may hand up to two labs one day late without penalty. Be sure to tell the lab instructor when you use one of your free late-days to ensure you aren’t penalized. Deadlines are strict: if a lab is due at 8:00 pm, a submission with a timestamp of 8:01 pm or later will be marked as late. Be sure to submit early! Labs that are late up 24 hours will be penalized by 50%. Labs that are more than 24 hours late will not be graded.

If for some reason (such as an illness) you will not be able to complete a lab or take a test, please talk to me immediately. I handle these situations on a case-by-case basis.

Tutors

There are tutors available, provided by Oberlin College. If you think you’d like a tutor, contact Kay Knight in Peters 114.

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 we have 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.

It’s 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 the general structure of a program is acceptable. However, cooperation should never involve other students possessing a copy of any portion of your work, regardless of format. When working with others, avoid typing or writing anything down; you should be able to recreate your discussion on your own. Do not hand in work done with (or by) someone else under your own name. Do not edit code for another student. The course staff are very skilled at finding similarities in code, so 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 and your name in the comments. The pledge is

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