

CSCI 1200 – Introduction to Computing

Administrative: 01/27/2003

Teaching assistants

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Recitations

The purpose of the recitations is to show you how to apply the general concepts you have learned in lecture to solve specific problems, which will be similar to the ones you need to solve for your homework. Every Monday, we will post a handout that outlines what you need to know for that recitation; you will need to download and print it. Recitation attendance is optional, but is also *strongly recommended!* Recitations are the only place where we will discuss the specifics of the Excel and Word writeups and the Java programming assignments. Whether you choose to attend or not, you are still responsible for knowing all of the material covered in recitation. If you can't make it to the recitation you're assigned to, or you're not quite sure that you understood the TA, then feel free to come to another recitation section. If you can't come to recitation at all one week, you should still download and read the handouts.

Web page

The Web page is at <http://www.cs.colorado.edu/~duck/classes/csci1200/>. All kinds of course information, such as scheduling changes, clarifications of homework requirements, or further explanations, will be posted on the course Web page. It is your responsibility to check it frequently (at least every couple of days).

Readings

Needless to say, we expect you to do the readings in the Java book! The readings should provide you with the necessary background to understand the assignments. If you have trouble understanding them, come to office hours or send us email.

Office hours and help by email

We will post our office hours on the course web page. These hours will be held in ECCR 252, the big lab. Each of us has 3 office hours per week, so there are 6 in all. You can come to either TA's office hours. If you cannot come to any of the regularly scheduled hours, then send one or both of us an email with the times that you are free to meet. We will make an appointment to meet you at some other time, or answer your questions via email. We guarantee that we will

answer your emails within 24 hours (except on weekends; if you email us Friday, we'll be sure to respond by Monday).

Office hours can get pretty busy, so make sure you have done the reading and be sure to prepare specific questions before you go, to get the most out of the TA during office hours.

TA Office Hours: ECCR 252

Ying Chen: Wed 1-2, Fri 10:30-12:30

Elizabeth White: Wed 9:30-10:30; Thurs 2-3 and 5-6

Some extra advice

Although this is an introductory class, it is not always going to be easy. In general, the people who come to recitation every week and keep up with the homework tend to do fine. But if you do fall a little bit behind, it's important to catch up before you get completely lost. Don't be embarrassed about coming to office hours or sending us email if you have trouble. Of course, we TAs also have classes and meetings, so it's important that you do not wait until the last minute to ask for help!

When you log on to a computer in the lab, you can save your work to C:\Documents and Settings*<your login name>*\My Documents, or to the D drive. But when you log off, the computer will erase all your files! To avoid losing all of your hard work, bring a floppy disk or a Zip disk every time you come to the lab, and save all your files to it before logging off your computer. If you forget to bring a disk, then be sure to send yourself an email with all your files attached.

Academic ethics

All the work you turn in, whether it is a program, a Word document, or an Excel spreadsheet, must be your own. It is fine to ask a classmate to help you understand the basics of an assignment, or to help you identify a bug in your code. But you cannot write the homework assignment in collaboration with other students and then all hand it in together; that constitutes academic dishonesty, better known as cheating. Nothing is more annoying than lowering someone's grade for academic dishonesty, but we will not hesitate to do this.

Homework

There are 5 programming homework assignments in all. They add up to 50% of your total grade. If you would like to propose a small programming project to substitute for one of the homeworks, come talk to us about proposing something.

The due date and the due time are FIRM. The due time is specified on the top of the homework assignment. A one-minute delay is the same as a one-day delay. You will get 10% points off per one-day delay. One week after the due time, we will no longer accept late homework.

For programming assignments, you will generally need to submit your Java code file and the executable program, which is the result of compiling that file into a program that runs. Getting your Java code to compile is not always easy, but it is required. Once your code compiles, you still need to test that it really works! This means testing every normal input to the program, plus handling special circumstances, like bad user input. We'll describe some special cases that you need to handle in recitation, but we might not tell you every one.

Homework scores will be posted at most two weeks after the due time. If you have any questions about your score, contact the grader of that homework.