

CPSC 120

Principles of Computer Science

A Multimedia Approach

Fall 2008

Administrative

- Instructor
 - Marc Corliss (corliss@hws.edu), Lansing 300
- Office hours
 - Mon/Wed 3pm-4pm, Thu 10am-noon, and Fri 9am-10am
- Date and location
 - Lecture: Mon/Wed 1:55pm-2:50pm, Gulick 206A
 - Lab: Fri 1:55pm-2:50 Gulick Hall 208
- Textbook
 - "Introduction to Computing and Programming in Python - A Multimedia Approach" by Mark Guzdial
- Webpage
 - <http://math.hws.edu/mcorliss/teaching/fall08/cs120>

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A Little About This Course

- Introduces students to computer science
 - You will learn some of the principles of computer science
- Focuses on multimedia design
 - Different than past offerings of CS 120
 - Explore three forms of multimedia: pictures, sounds, and (simple) movies
- Manipulate multimedia by writing computer programs
 - Programming language: Python
 - We'll write Python programs to manipulate various types of multimedia e.g., write a program to remove "red eye" from a picture
- Intended for non-majors as well as potential majors
 - Note: if you're really interested in computer science as a major and have done well in math and science in the past you may want to take CPSC 124

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Active Learning

- Programming is something you learn by *doing*
- In that spirit, this class has the following:
 - Labs where students can get hands-on experience and help
 - => on Fridays, we'll meet in Gulick 208 rather than Gulick 206a
 - Laptop days where students can apply what they learn in lecture
 - Lectures where students participate regularly

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Workload

- Attendance/Participation
- Labs
- Projects
- Exams

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Attendance/Participation

- Must attend lectures and labs
 - Otherwise, will get behind... computer science and programming are cumulative
 - Try to be active, ask questions when you don't understand something
 - Can miss at most 3 classes before it affects your grade
 - If more than 3 are missed, lose 10% of attendance/participation grade per day missed
- Must meet with me in first two weeks
 - Will give me a chance to meet each of you, and you a chance to talk with me
 - Will also help me in planning the curriculum for the class
 - You are responsible for scheduling this meeting
 - If you fail to meet with me in first two weeks (by Friday, 9/12) then you will lose 20% of attendance/participation grade

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Labs

- This class has a lab component
 - Each Friday in Gulick 208
- Gives hands-on experience and a chance to get help from me as well as other students
- Lab worksheet will be handed out
 - Must be completed by start of following lab
 - Note: usually not intended to be completed within the lab
- Collaboration in labs is encouraged
 - However, you must write up the worksheet individually
- Lowest lab worksheet grade will be dropped
- Late labs are not accepted

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Projects

- 3 longer programming assignments
 - Will take 2 weeks
 - Will build picture collage in project 1, sound collage in project 2, edit a movie in project 3
- To be completed in teams
- Due either at the beginning of class (1:55)
- Late projects are accepted, but 10% off for each late day
 - Submissions at 2:30 on the day the project is due are one day late!

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Exams

- Two in-class written midterm exams
 - Tentatively scheduled for 10/6 (Mon.) and 11/10 (Mon.)
 - Make-up exams will only be given if you have a legitimate reason for missing exam (must be done in advance)
- One written final exam
 - Scheduled (by the registrar) for 7pm-10pm, Dec. 18th in Gulick 206A (normal class room)
 - Date, time, location cannot be changed
 - Rescheduling will only be allowed with documentation from a Dean

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Grading

- Attendance/Participation - 10%
- Labs - 30% (approximately 3% each)
- Projects - 25% (8.33% each)
- Midterm Exams - 20% (10% each)
- Final Exam - 15%

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Academic Integrity

- HWS principle of academic integrity governs course work
- All exams are to be completed individually
 - Exams will be closed book
- Each project is to be completed solely by the submitting team members
 - The work you submit MUST be your own (or your team's)
 - I will be using MOSS (a software analyzer) to detect plagiarism
 - MOSS is highly accurate at finding cheating
- Can collaborate in labs but must write-up solutions individually
 - Identical or near identical solutions will be considered one solution
 - Students will share the points

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Cheating Strictly Prohibited

- Cheating in this course (minus the labs) will result in the following:
 - First offense: students involved will receive 0 on work, and case will be taken to committee on standards
 - Second offense: students will fail the course

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Center for Teaching and Learning

- Students who need to enhance study skills can contact center for teaching and learning (CTL)
 - CTL is in Harris Hall, phone number 781-3351
- If you have an identified disability and would like to receive accommodations, please contact me
 - Need documentation from CTL

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Webpage, Schedule, and Email

- Make sure you view the course webpage regularly
 - <http://math.hws.edu/mcorliss/teaching/fall108/cs120>
- Also, make sure you view lecture and lab schedules regularly
 - <http://math.hws.edu/mcorliss/teaching/fall108/cs120/schedule.html>
 - http://math.hws.edu/mcorliss/teaching/fall108/cs120/lab_schedule.html
- Finally, make sure you check your HWS email regularly

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