CS 121: Computer Science I
Spring 2015

Department of Computer Science
College of Engineering
Boise State University
Today’s Objectives

- Who am I?
- Course Syllabus
- Intro to Team-Based Learning (TBL)
- Chapter 1: Introduction to Computer Science
About Me

- **Instructor**: Amit Jain [http://cs.boisestate.edu/~amit](http://cs.boisestate.edu/~amit)
- **Email**: ajain@boisestate.edu
- **Office**: MEC 302E
- **Office hours**: Check class website
At the end of this course, we want you to be able to:

- design **object-oriented** solutions to programming problems,
- implement working solutions to programming problems using **good coding and documentation** styles,
- explain basic concepts of computer science such as **algorithms**, **abstraction**, and **encapsulation**,
- use an **integrated development environment** that is specialized for program development with reasonable proficiency, and
Class Resources

- Syllabus, notes, assignments and other course information are available on the **class website**.
  [http://cs.boisestate.edu/~amit/121](http://cs.boisestate.edu/~amit/121)

- Class discussion, announcements, and polls will be available via **Piazza** (phone app available).
  [https://piazza.com/boisestate/spring2015/cs121/home](https://piazza.com/boisestate/spring2015/cs121/home)

- Lab information available on the **CS 121 wiki**.
  [https://onyx.boisestate.edu/cs121](https://onyx.boisestate.edu/cs121)

- Make sure you check these resources often. All class updates will be posted on these sites.
CS Tutoring Center

- Located on the first floor of the engineering building in room **ENGR 111**.
- Staffed by CS 121 Teaching Assistants.
- Great source of help when you’re on campus.
- Access to the center is via card swipe. You should already have access.
Tutors

- Undergraduate and Graduate Tutors.
- Check tutoring center website for 121 tutors and their hours.
  http://coen.boisestate.edu/cs/computer-science-tutoring-center-cstc/
“Piazza is a free online gathering place where students can ask, answer, and explore 24/7, under the guidance of their instructors.”

- Piazza invite sent out
- Use Piazza to help each other
- Ask questions anonymously
- Answer questions and doubts that everyone seems to be having
Assignments

- Homework:
  - Reading assignments and pre-quiz exercises
  - Pre-lab work due prior to labs to learn skills needed in the lab

- In-class quizzes and exercises:
  - Individual and team-based
  - Assess understanding of assigned reading

- Lab:
  - Self-contained, focused exercises
  - Learn skills needed for projects

- Programming Projects
  - Significant programming projects completed outside of class/lab
  - Learn skills needed for real-world/future courses
Grading

- Programming Projects (60%)
- In-class quizzes (20%)
  - Individual quiz (65%)
  - Team quiz (35%)
- Final exam (20%)
- Extra Credit Opportunities

- The lab credit is graded separately from the lecture. The lab will be graded based on attendance, preparation, and participation.
It sounds simple.
It’s not!

http://registrar.boisestate.edu/general-information-and-policies/academic-integrity/
Unacceptable Collaboration

- Outsource an assignment to someone you hire.
- Submit an assignment substantially created by another student, friend, co-worker, relative, stranger, internet user...
- Provide a copy of a substantial portion of an assignment to another student.
- Posting a copy of a substantial portion of an assignment to an Internet server.
Acceptable Collaboration

- All classroom and Tutoring Center (with Tutors) discussions.
- Piazza discussion extending classroom discussion.
- Helping someone install/use the development tools/environment.
- Helping someone debug a program they wrote.
- Sharing and *explaining* short snippets (a few lines) of code to someone.
Team-Based Learning

- Evidence-based instructional practice proven to increase student motivation and comprehension.
- You are responsible for reviewing material before class.
- We make sure you have a basic understanding before we jump into more complicated material.
- You get instant feedback.
- Our class discussion is based on what you need.
- And its just more fun!
“Random” teams of 3-4 students.

Only in-class team work (quizzes, exercises).

TBL quizzes

- Quiz over reading assignments.
- Every week unless specified otherwise.
- Each quiz will be taken first as an individual.
- Same quiz will be taken as a team.
  - Instant feedback, partial credit for the team.
  - Keep track of individual vs team performance.

In-class exercises

- Team exercises to make sure you are absorbing material.
- Give you a break from listening to me talk ;)

Let’s make some teams...
Build Teams

Prioritized Sorting Criteria:

- Do you have any experience programming in Java?
- Do you have any experience programming in any language?
- Are you a second degree seeking student?
- Is your major in Electrical Engineering?
- Is your major in Computer Science?
- ...something else?
- Are you excited to take this class?
Meet team members and introduce yourself!

- Read the syllabus.
- Write your team number and the names and student ID numbers of all team members on your team quiz.