Welcome to CS 135 ()

Instructors: Byron Weber Becker, Charles Clark, Cameron Morland

Other course personnel: see website for details

- ISAs (Instructional Support Assistants)
- IAs (Instructional Apprentices)
- ISC (Instructional Support Coordinator)

Web page (main information source):
https://www.student.cs.uwaterloo.ca/~cs135/

Themes of the course

- Design (the art of creation)
- Abstraction (finding commonality, neglecting details)
- Refinement (revisiting and improving initial ideas)
- Syntax (how to say it), expressiveness (how easy it is to say and understand), and semantics (the meaning of what's being said)
- Communication (in general)

The approach is by learning how to **think** about solving problems using a computer.
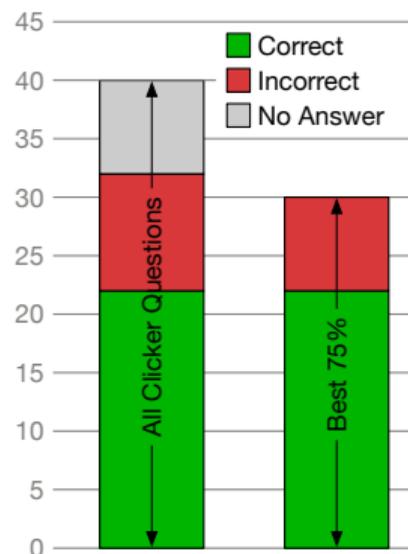
Lectures

Tuesdays and Thursdays

Textbook: "How to Design Programs (**First** Edition)" (HtDP) by Felleisen, Flatt, Findler, Krishnamurthi (find link on web site)

Presentation handouts: available on Web page **and** as printed coursepack from media.doc (MC 2018)

Participation marks: to encourage active learning

> Participation marks

- Based on "clickers"; several multiple-choice questions in each lecture
- Purchase at the Bookstore; register in A0
- Any answer = 1 mark; Correct answer = 2 marks
- We use the best 75% across the entire term to calculate 5% of the final mark
- No sharing clickers: each clicker must be used by only one student in CS 135.
- No bringing your friend's clicker to class, of course
- You must attend the section you're officially registered in in order to get credit for your participation

Tutorials

- Fridays
- Reinforces lectures with additional examples and problem-solving sessions
- Often directly applicable to the upcoming assignment
- Take your laptop and clicker

You should definitely be attending if your assignment marks are below 80%.

Assignments

Timing: About 10 assignments, typically due Tuesday at 9:00PM

Software: DrRacket v7.7(http://racket-lang.org)

Computer labs: MC 3003, 3004, 3005, 3027, 2062, 2063. Available for your use, but no scheduled labs. Most students use their own computers.

A0: Due *soon*. Must complete before you are allowed to submit any subsequent assignment

Submission: Using MarkUs. More in A0. Submit early and often. No late submissions. No email submissions.

Exams

- Midterm (Mar 2, 7-8:50pm)
- Final (date to be determined by the Registrar)

Do not make holiday travel plans before you know the date of all your final exams AND take into account the snow dates.

Marking scheme

- 20% Assignments (roughly weekly)
- 25% Midterm
- 50% Final exam
- 05% Participation
  (on best 75% of the clicker questions)
- **To pass the course**:
  - ⇒ Your weighted assignment average must be 50% or greater.
  - ⇒ Your weighted exam average must be 50% or greater.

Getting help

- Tutors have regular office hours. Schedule on web site.
- Instructors also have office hours.
- **Piazza**: An on-line forum where you can ask questions, other students and instructors answer them.
  - Regularly check the official assignment pinned posts
  - Use meaningful subject headings (not just "A3 problem"; what's your specific problem?)
  - Search previous posts before posting; **Don't duplicate!**
  - Possible to post privately if necessary

Suggestions for success

Read the CS135 Thrival Guide as soon as possible. Find it on the course web site under "Help".

- Keep up with your assignments. Start them early. **This is key!**
- Go over your assignments and exams; learn from your mistakes.
- Attend lectures; take notes
- Visit office hours as needed; earlier is better.
- Follow our advice on approaches to writing programs
  (e.g. design recipe, templates).
- Read your mail sent to your UW email account.

Suggestions for success (cont.)

- Keep up with the readings (keep ahead if possible).
- Integrate exam study into your weekly routine.
- Go beyond the minimum required (e.g. do extra exercises).
- Maintain a "big picture" perspective: look beyond the immediate task or topic.

Academic integrity

- You must do your own work.
- Policy 71 - Student Discipline: plagiarism, sharing assignments, etc.
- Running out of time? It is better to hand in a partial assignment or nothing than to hand in someone else's work.
- Be careful about posting code to Piazza. If it looks like it could have come from your assignment, don't post it (publicly).

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Intellectual property

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- Lecture slides and instructor written notes
- Assignment specifications and solutions
- Tutorial slides and notes
- Examinations and solutions

Sharing this material without the IP owner's permission is a violation of their IP rights.

Goals of this module

- You should understand how the course is organized.
- You should be familiar with the course resources available to you.
- You should know what you need to do to earn the mark you desire.
- You should know how to avoid plagiarism.

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