Basic information

• course number: CSCI-UA.0101-006

• course webpage: https://intro-cs-6.blogspot.com (also linked from cs.nyu.edu).

• lectures: Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30–10:45am in Courant Institute / Warren Weaver Hall 109.

• instructor: Madeleine Thompson (mbt@cs.nyu.edu)

• office hours: Mondays, 10:45–11:45 in Warren Weaver Hall 328 or by appointment. If you plan to come, but not at the beginning, please let me know.

• teaching assistants: TBA

Textbooks

• The official textbook for the class is Introduction to Java Programming Brief Version, 9th Edition, by Y. Daniel Liang
  – Available at Amazon and the NYU Bookstore.
  – $110 new, as little as $2.70 used.
  – You are welcome to get a used copy or the 7th or 8th edition.
  – We will not be using the online supplements.
  – I will not assign exercises in the book by number.
  – I will post section titles when I suggest readings.

• I recommend Head First Java 2nd ed., by Kathy Sierra and Bert Bates.
  – Available at Amazon, O’Reilly, and Shakespeare & Co. on Broadway.
  – $24 new, as little as $16 used.
  – I will suggest exercises out of this book by number.
  – Do not get an old edition.
  – Exercises from this book will not be graded.

• On-line readings will be assigned throughout the course.
  – The first will be the first three chapters of Version Control by Example, by Eric Sink.

Objectives

• The main goal of Introduction to Computer Science is to gain experience programming in a strongly-typed object-oriented language. We’ll be using Java, but the same ideas will extend to other languages.

• Despite its name, this course is not an introduction; you should already have some programming experience. And, it is not computer science; it is software engineering. So, we will put a lot of time into learning to use tools like editors, compilers, version control, and automated tests.

• At the end of the course, you should be able to take a specific description of a task you want a computer to do and turn that abstract idea into Java code.

Who is this course for?

• You must already know some programming language. CSCI-UA.002 is sufficient.

• If you’ve done a substantial amount of programming in Java, C++, or another statically-typed language, you will probably be bored.

Grading

• grades: 5% in-class participation, 30% homework, 15% first midterm, 15% second midterm, 35% final exam

• first midterm: 45 minutes on Feb. 27.

• second midterm: 45 minutes on Apr. 10.

• final exam: TBA, between May 15 and 21.

Homework

• Homework will be assigned every week.

• I will assign additional exercises to be done by particular dates but not turned in.

• Your worst homework will be dropped from your grade at the end of the term. Use this if you are ill or have personal issues.

• Late homework will not be accepted under any circumstances.

• Missing homework will be removed from your grade only if you have a documentable issue lasting longer than a week.

• Homework will be mostly of the form “Write a Java program that does X.” It will be automatically graded. Part of the automatic grading will be a style checker, Checkstyle.

• You will be given basic automated tests to make sure you understand the assignment. I will run those tests and some withheld tests.
I will provide non-graded commentary.

The teaching assistants have no role in grading homework. See me with any concerns.

In-class participation

- We will be programming together in lecture.
- You should bring a laptop.
- In-class work will be submitted similarly to homework but will not be marked for style or correctness.

Academic honesty

- Read the university policy at: http://cas.nyu.edu/page/academicintegrity
- I loathe plagiarism.
- If you collaborate in any way whatsoever on assignments, even asking a fellow student what a question means or telling a fellow student what a question means, please say so in your turned-in homework. This completely protects you from any charges of academic dishonesty; the worst that could happen is you may not get full credit (but you probably will).
- Homework grading is automatic, but I do read assignments to comment on them. The only way you will get away with plagiarism is if you copy wrong answers.
- If you discuss the homework with another student, say so in the comments in your source.
- If you discuss the homework with another student after you turn your solution in, update the submitted code in Subversion with a note describing what you did. This will not affect your mark.

Special accommodations

- I am happy to make accommodations for chronic medical conditions and religious observance.
- If you are in such a situation, tell me in the first two weeks of class.