

CSE 8A: Introduction to Computer Science: Java

Winter 2007

Course Basics

(additional IMPORTANT information is on the class web page. READ IT!)

Instructor: Dr. Beth Simon
Office: CSE 4104
Phone: 858-534-5419
Email: bsimon@cs.ucsd.edu (but use Webboard or email TA!)

Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00-3:00 in CSE 4104
Wednesday 10:00-11:00 in CSE 4104

TA Office Hours TBD (see web page)

Class Meetings: M W F 3:00-3:50PM Center Hall 115

Labs: All held in CSE B210 (basement) You should be in one and only one. You should go to the same lab each week (except in exceptional circumstances).

C00 Tues 5:00-5:50 (Neil Rhodes)
A00 Wed 11:00-11:50 (Beth Simon)

Discussion Section: Attendance highly recommended
A01 Friday 11:00-11:50 Cognitive Science Building 001

Open Lab Tutoring: Available in CSE basement labs as indicated on the class web page. These tutors exist to help you learn and to provide a second set of eyes for debugging. They will not tell you what code to write. See information on the web site on “How to prepare to ask a question”.

Text: Required:
Walter Savitch, Absolute Java, **Second Edition, 2005**, Prentice-Hall -
Recommended:
Paul Anderson, Just Enough Unix, 4th Edition, McGraw Hill
Peek, Learning the Unix Operating System, 5th Edition, O'Reilly
Donald Scarl, How to Solve Problems for Success in Freshman Physics Engineering and Beyond, 6th Edition, Dosoris Press

Problem Solving Assignments (PSAs):

Most weeks there will be a set of problem solving assignments due. These will consist of

- reading a problem statement
- formulating a plan to solve the problem (an algorithm)
- implementing a solution (writing a program in Java that solves the problem)
- completing an interview with a tutor

The third step (the Java code that implements the solution) will always be turned in for grading. This will be done by running the **bundle script** by the deadline. The fourth step will be accomplished by visiting a tutor during available hours within 48 weekday hours after the homework is due. More information on web.

Quizzes:

There will be quizzes every week on Fridays. See the web page for details.

Exams:

There will be one midterm and one final exam. They will cover all the assigned reading, lecture material, and assignments up to the class period BEFORE the exam (eg, the exam is on Friday, material up through the previous Monday is fair game). **Exams must be taken at the scheduled time.**

All quizzes and exams are closed book, closed notes, no calculators allowed.

The midterm exam will be on Friday February 9, during the normal class time.

A room for the midterm will be announced. The final exam will be on Wednesday, March 21 from 3:00PM to 6:00 PM. A room for the final will be announced.

Grading:

Your grade will be based on the weighted average of your scores on PSAs, quizzes, and exams, and labs. You will receive the same grade in CSE8AL as you receive in CSE8A.

The final grade will be weighted as follows:

In-Class Quizzes	10%
Midterm	20%
PSAs	25%
Final	35%
Labs	10%

I will grade on a 90%, 80%, 70%, 60% scale. "Plusses" and "minuses" are given out only at my discretion. All grades are FIXED within 7 days of the grade being posted on gradesource -
- no regrade requests will be taken after that time.

ADDITIONALLY, YOU MUST SCORE AT LEAST A 50% ON THE FINAL EXAM TO PASS THE COURSE. ANYONE WHO SCORES LESS THAN A 50% ON THE FINAL EXAM WILL RECEIVE AN F – REGARDLESS OF THE PERCENTAGES DESCRIBED ABOVE.

Academic Integrity:

I and the class staff will be working hard to help you learn both the required concepts and gain the skills necessary to be able to solve problems using a computer. We expect your help in achieving these goals. If you cheat, you not only fail yourself (in that you won't be able to solve problems asked of you by employers), but you fail UCSD (by lowering the expected quality of our undergraduate degrees). You don't want either of those. So don't cheat.

Please see further information on the website geared to help you understand how you can and cannot collaborate in this class.