Welcome to Com S 227

Please turn off your cell phone!
You're not Steve

• That is true, we're Preeti and Kate
• Both of us are TAs for the course
So who's Steve?
Check urbandictionary.com

- "Steve is a name associated with power and awesomeness"
- "The name given to all those people who seem to dazzle everyone with their expert knowledge on every subject known to man"
- "Many people wear Superman pajamas to bed. Superman wears Steve pajamas"
- "Once you've had a Steve, you never go back"
Ok, but seriously

• Steve is the instructor for this section
  – 20-odd years teaching CS and math
  – 8 years in industry, rejoined ISU in 2008
  – MS in CS, PhD in Math
    • But never finished high school
  – Has only been arrested twice
  – Is apparently not here today
Should I take this course

• This course does have the word “introduction” in the title
  – But it’s “Introduction to Object-Oriented Programming”, not “Introduction to Programming”

• From the catalog:  *Prereq: Placement into MATH 143, 165, or higher; recommended: a previous high school or college course in programming or equivalent experience.*
• In practice, 227 can be difficult for someone who has had no exposure to programming!
• Be sure you have the math background
  • Placement into Math 143 or calculus
• Consider taking Com S 127 first
  • Programming at a slower pace, without “objects”
• Engineers should take Cpr E 185 first
  • Permanent brain damage may result if you take them at the same time…
I've never done any programming, can I take it anyway?

• Many people with no previous programming experience have done just fine...
  – Good study and time management skills?
  – A’s in Calculus, good at logical thinking?
  – National merit scholar?
• ...but many people, even with some programming experience, have a lot of trouble!
  – Last spring: 540 students, 130 drop/fail
Why do so many people end up taking the course twice?

• *First time*: learn not to procrastinate
• *Second time*: learn about object-oriented programming
• Being self-motivated is exceptionally important
  – No one is going to keep track of you and save you from yourself
We covered all this stuff at my community college, do I still have to take 227?

• Be careful what you wish for
• Most high school and community college courses are too superficial to prepare you for Com S 228
• Even if you are familiar with the "topics" of the course, you may benefit from the experience
About 227

• Emphasizes a disciplined approach to building software
  – Working from detailed specifications of objects
  – Documentation
  – Unit testing
  – Using a symbolic debugger

• Larger scale projects (300-500 lines)
Example

• See last semester's homework 3
  – Instructor's solution was about 300 lines

• Check the archive pages for details about what the course covers
  – Try the final exam review problems
  – Try Spring '17 homework 3
  – Try Fall '16 homework 4
Is the course too hard?

• Probably not
• Standards are not hypothetical, but based on real-world expectations of skills of graduates
• “Actually, those courses [227 and 228] should have been a lot harder.”
  – Nicole Bruck, former student and 227 TA, currently a project manager at Microsoft
Course organization

• There are about 420 students this fall
• 2 lecture sections like this one
  – MWF at 1:10 and 3:10
• 11 hands-on lab sections
  – Two hours each week in groups of 45
  – Opportunity to try things out where there are TAs and people around to answer questions!
Read the syllabus

• What’s a syllabus??
• See:  http://www.cs.iastate.edu/~cs227/syllabus.html