Welcome to Com S 227

Please turn off your cell phone!
Who am I?

• Steve?
Steve!

- "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”

-urbandictionary.com
Ok, but seriously

• Steve is the instructor for this section
  – 30 years teaching CS and math
  – Came to Ames to work for a startup, 8 years in industry, rejoined ISU in 2008
  – MS in CS, PhD in Math
    • But never finished high school
    • Has only been arrested twice
Should I take this course?

• Hmmm. It 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.
Should I take this course?

• In reality, 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?

• Some people with no previous programming experience have done just fine...
  – Excellent 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 fall: 420 students, 315 pass, 280 C- or better
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
  - There are 400+ students in the course
  - No one is going to keep track of you and save you from your slothful habits!
  - Take advantage of the lab period to talk to the TAs and other people around you
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
    • An object is a software entity that encapsulates the data and behavior for some component within a system
  – Documentation
  – Unit testing
  – Using a symbolic debugger

• Larger scale projects (300-400 lines)
Example

- Check the archive pages for more details
- Try the final exam review problems
- Try assignments 3 and 4
Is the course too hard?

• Probably not
• Standards are 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 400 students this fall
• Three instructors and 18 teaching assistants
• 4 lecture sections like this one
  – MWF at 10:00, 1:10 and 3:10
• 13 hands-on lab sections
  – Two hours each week in groups of 20 or 40
  – Opportunity to try things out where there are TAs and people around to answer questions!
Do I have to come to class?

• Obviously, that's completely up to you!
• Once a week or so we'll have a short in-class activity called a "group quiz"
  – counts for about 4%
  – encourage you to read the book, come to lecture, chat with some other people in the room
• We don't otherwise monitor attendance in lectures
  – Read the attendance policies in the syllabus!
To do

• Log in to Canvas
• Sign up for Piazza
• Read the syllabus
What's Piazza??

• Collaborative, searchable Q&A forum
  – We use this for all course announcements and discussion
    • You are expected to check every day

• Can open in Canvas or on its own

• See the "pinned messages" at the top of Q&A
  • e.g., code examples discussed in class are always linked on the “topics page”
What's a syllabus??

• Spells out course policies for everything
  – attendance, grading, homework submission, missing quizzes, exam regrades, cheating, etc., etc.
• Staff contact information
• Office hours (starting next week)
• Textbook and software info
• See the "quick links" at the top
  – always refresh your browser, things change
And remember

• There are no labs this week. Labs start next Tuesday. Check your schedule and go to the right one.
• The first homework will be assigned during week 3
• The first quiz will be sometime next week – announced a day in advance on the topics page
• Can you see the whiteboard...?