Welcome to Com S 227
Using Webex (or Zoom)

• Stay muted unless you are speaking 😊
  – Video optional, we’ll see how it goes…
• Raise hand feature – in participants list
• Chat
  – Ask questions (anonymously to class)
  – (or just quietly)
• Polls
Who are you, and why should we listen to you?

• 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?

• For most students, 227 is the SECOND programming course

• 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... but not many
  – 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!
  – Spring ‘19: 580 students, 430 pass, 378 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 330 students in the course this semester
  – 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
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)
About 227

• Check the archive pages for more details
  – From the Canvas front page:

  4. Want to know more?
  
  If you read the syllabus and are still curious about exactly:
  
  • our tentative schedule for the whole semester
  • the archive of all course materials from one of the

  In particular the topics page gives a daily summary of whether you need to take 227, you could try the review if you think it is easy.

  – Try the final exam review problems
  – Try assignment 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 330 students this fall
• Three instructors and 12 teaching assistants
• 4 online sections like this one on MWF
• 12 “external” 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 (virtually) talk to!
zyBooks

• A part of your workload in the course will be in the form of exercises in an interactive "textbook"
  – Can write and run Java code to try things out
  – Participation activities – short questions or animations
  – Challenge activities – bits of code
– zyLabs – a general auto-grading tool
  • Some will be counted as part of Challenge activities
  • The miniassignments will also use the zyLabs tool
zyBooks

- Useful for quickly learning the basics
- Beware of toy programs!
- External labs will be based on using “real” development tools (IDE, unit test framework, debugger)
- Programming assignments will be larger in scale
Do I have to come to class?

• Obviously, that's completely up to you!
• Class sessions will be recorded
• Participation will be mostly monitored through the zyBooks activities
• Being here...
  – Provides some structure to your days
  – Ask questions in real time
What's Piazza?

• Collaborative, searchable Q&A forum originally created for programming courses

• Have used in 227 for past 8 years
  – Absolutely indispensible!

• Can open in Canvas, or on its own
Communication

• Use Piazza for all questions about the course, logistics, Java, homework specifications, ...
  – can post anonymously, anyone can answer
  – quickest way to get a response

• For questions for the staff only, mark your post *private*
  – e.g. if you post source code for current homework

• To raise private concerns just with me, use email
  – start subject line with “CS 227”
What's a syllabus?

• Spells out course policies for everything
  – attendance, grading, homework submission, missing quizzes, exam regrades, cheating, etc., etc.

• Textbook and software info

• See the "quick links" at the top
  – *always refresh your browser, things may be updated*
What’s the “topics page”?

- When we write or review code in class, I’ll post links to it on the topics page, along with a summary and any additional notes
  – From Canvas front page:

  5. Code examples and additional notes from lecture
     
     Sections A and B - Code examples and additional notes
     Section C - Code examples and additional notes
     Section E - Code examples and additional notes

  6. Other useful stuff that we'll eventually need...
     
     Installing Java and Eclipse
What’s the master plan?

• Draft schedule for the whole semester
• *Approximate* homework and exam dates
  – From Canvas front page:

4. Want to know more?

If you read the syllabus and are still curious about exactly what we do in the course, take a look at:

- our [tentative schedule](#) for the whole semester
- the [archive of all course materials](#) from one of the previous semesters