

## Class 01: An Introduction to the Course

**Held:** Friday, 27 August 2010

**Summary:** We begin the class with a short overview and then a short lab.

### Related Pages:

- EBoard.
- Lab: GNU/Linux I.

### Notes:

- Because of problems with MediaScript, the course web is in beta stage, and will remain so for the next few weeks.
- Don't forget CS Table today at noon in the Day PDR.
- Don't forget Happy Days this weekend.

### Overview:

- Course goals.
- Texts, required and otherwise.
- A few syllabus notes.
- Lab 1: GNU/Linux 1.

## Course Goals

- Learn a new paradigm of programming: *Imperative Programming*
  - Key operations: assignment and explicit sequencing of actions.
- Learn some lower-level concepts in computer science.
  - Memory management.
  - Data representation.
- Learn C
  - Small and powerful
  - A nearly ideal language for learning the prior concepts
  - A syntax that has been copied way too often
  - There's a reason it's survived thirty years.
- Learn some tools that every CS major should know.
  - Linux
  - Emacs
  - Make
- Learn a bit of the philosophy of Unix
  - There's a reason it's survived thirty years.

- Revisit some key data structures and algorithms from this new perspective
  - Lists
  - Dictionaries
  - Searching and sorting
- And more!

*Think like an old-school computer scientist.*

## **Textbooks**

- Kernighan and Ritchie: *The C Programming Language*
  - The first book written on C (and, for awhile)
  - Reflects the language: Small, elegant, powerful.
  - Treats you like an adult. (For better or for worse.)
  - Helps you think like a real C programmer.
  - Something you'll want to keep.
- Mecklenberg: *Managing Projects with GNU Make*
  - Much more information than you'll need about Make.
  - Available free online.
- Raymond: *The Art of Unix Programming*
  - Helps you think like a Unix programmer.
  - Available free online.
- Harbison and Steele: *C: A Reference Manual*
  - Classic reference on the language.
  - Optional.
  - Copies will be left around labs.
- Plauger: *The Standard C Library*
  - Classic reference on the library.
  - Optional.
  - Copies will be left around labs.

## **More Administrivia**

- I won't discuss a lot of the syllabus because
  - many of you know my basic policies anyway
  - students rarely remember syllabus details
  - it's all on the Web anyway.
- Homework is due on Wednesday evenings at 11:00 p.m.
  - Guess why.
- Three take-home exams, one optional final.
- Participate in class!

## Lab

- Attempt the lab.
  - Be prepared to reflect.
-