Welcome to CS 61A

About the Course

Parts of the Course

Lecture: Videos posted to cs61a.org Sunday, Tuesday, & Thursday @ 5pm
Lab: The most important part of this course (next week)
Discussion/Tutorials: The most important part of this course (this week)
Staff office hours: The most important part of this course (next week)
Online textbook: http://composingprograms.com

Morning
Lecture Q&A

2pm
Lab Intro

Later
Finish the lab

Tuesday
Lecture Q&A

Try the Homework

Wednesday
Lecture Q&A

Discussion Intro

Thursday
Finish the Homework

Friday
Lecture Q&A

Projects are due Fridays

Asking Questions

Piazza: All staff (private posts) and students (public posts)
cs61a@berkeley.edu: Head TAs and both instructors
Lecture Q&A with the instructors: Monday, Wednesday, & Friday mornings
denero@berkeley.edu or hfarid@berkeley.edu: Often the slowest option
cs61a.org: Self-service answers to many questions

An Introduction to Computer Science

What is Computer Science?

The study of... What problems can be solved using computation, How to solve those problems, and What techniques lead to effective solutions
Systems
Artificial Intelligence
Graphics
Security
Networking
Programming Languages
Theory
Scientific Computing

... Decision Making
Robotics
Natural Language Processing

Answering Questions
Translation

What is This Course About?

A course about managing complexity
Mastering abstraction
Programming paradigms
An introduction to programming
Full understanding of Python fundamentals
Combining multiple ideas in large projects
How computers interpret programming languages
Different types of languages: Scheme & SQL
A challenging course that will demand a lot of you
CS 10: The Beauty and Joy of Computing

Designed for students without prior experience
A programming environment created by Berkeley, now used in courses around the world and online
An introduction to fundamentals (& Python) that sets students up for success in CS 61A
More info: http://cs10.org/

Course Policies

Learning

Community

Course Staff

Details...

https://cs61a.org/articles/about.html

Collaboration

Asking questions is highly encouraged
- Discuss everything with each other; learn from your fellow students!
- Some projects can be completed with a partner
- Choose a partner from your discussion section

The limits of collaboration
- Please don’t look at someone else’s code!
- Exceptions: lab, your project partner, or after you already solved the problem
- Please don’t tell other people the answers! You can point them to what is wrong and describe how to fix it, but don’t tell them what to type, and don’t type for them
- Copying project solutions causes people to fail the course
- We really do catch people who violate the rules, and we’re getting better at it.

Build good habits now

What happens next?

• Tutorials will meet today, starting now: tutorials.cs61a.org
• Watch Friday lecture videos Thursday or Friday (Posted to cs61a.org by 5pm Thursday)
• Optional: Lecture Q&A 9:10am Friday (will be recorded)
• Optional: Instructor “Ask Us Anything” session 2:10pm-3pm Friday 8/28 (no recording)
• No lab or discussion until next week
• We’re done!