

Welcome to AP!

COMS 3157

Advanced Programming

Fall 2024

Course Homepage: <https://cs3157.github.io/www/2024-9/>

Teaching staff

- 23 TAs
 - Photos will be posted on CourseWorks
 - Email to all teaching staff:
cucs3157-tas@googlegroups.com
- Instructor: Jae Woo Lee
 - Email:
jae@cs.columbia.edu
 - Office: 715 CEPSR
 - Home page:
<http://www.cs.columbia.edu/~jae/>
- Office hours on the course homepage

Who am I?

- Jae Woo Lee
 - Senior Lecturer in Computer Science
 - Teaching first, research second
 - Just call me Jae (pronounced ‘Jay’)
 - Note that this is NOT a general rule – address instructors as Professors unless told otherwise
- My background
 - Undergrad in Columbia College
 - Many years of professional experience
 - Designing and coding large-scale software systems
 - Running a start-up company
 - Came back to Columbia for Ph.D.
 - More info at <http://www.cs.columbia.edu/~jae/>

This course

- Introduction to systems programming
- Course objective
 - Right now, you are a programming student
 - After this course, you will become a *programmer*
- *Follow the River and You Will Find the C*
 - Paper published in SIGCSE 2011
 - Link on my home page
 - Great overview of this course: what, how, and why
 - Skim it now, and read again after the course

But then, it's just another class

- Focuses on systems programming
 - Precision and attention to detail
 - Systematic approach to problem solving
- And that's one narrow aspect of CS
 - Not a gauge for general CS potential
 - Not even a gauge for general programming ability
- Please don't get stressed out about AP

Set your expectations

- AP may not be your cup of tea, and that's ok
 - Systems programming may not be your thing
 - You may have other priorities in life
- You may not do well even if you try
 - This stuff is not easy, even for those who like it
- 12 hours/week is **NOMINAL** 4-credit workload
 - Could be a bit lighter, or could be a lot heavier
- Think of it as 13-week workout regimen
 - Your **IMPROVEMENT** will be what you put in

What you can expect from me

- Honesty
 - You get no-BS answers to the best of my ability
 - *Cons*: People say I am very blunt
- Transparency
 - You will know everything – how HW & exam are graded, why I do certain things in class, etc., etc.
 - Ask anything; I'll either answer it or tell you why I cannot
 - *Cons*: None I can think of – at least to students
- Fairness
 - Hard rubric, no extensions, no tolerance on cheating
 - *Cons*: Students are denied exceptions for the sake of fairness to the whole class

What past students wrote

- Past evaluations of all my classes:
<http://www.cs.columbia.edu/~jae/evals/>
- Reviews on CULPA, etc.

TLDR:

- Some people love the course, others hate it; some people think I am great, others think I am horrible
- Give it a chuckle and focus on your own learning

Lectures & Recitations

- In-person Lectures
 - Will try my best to have them recorded
 - But no guarantees of any kind
 - Auditors are welcome to lectures & listserv
 - No Linux account, no lab/exam submissions, no TA access
- Recitations by me
 - Beginning of some Sec 2 classes on Fridays
 - Sec 2 students attend live; others watch recordings
 - Some pre-recorded sessions
 - Mandatory unless I say optional
- Optional Review Sessions by TAs
 - Reviews and Q&As, but NO new materials
 - Normally NOT recorded, except exam reviews

Section 2

- COMS 3157 Sec 2: Friday 12:10-2pm, room TBA
 - Small flipped class of 40-50 students
 - Must attend or watch video of Sec 1 lectures on Tue/Thu before class
 - Must be free in Sec 1 slot (TR 4:10-5:25) to take all Sec 1 exams
- What do Sec 2 students do in there?
 - After my recitation, students work on problems
 - Teaching staff is available for help
 - Attendance & participation are mandatory, and will be considered for bumping borderline grades
 - All materials (recordings & problems) will be available to all students
- Who is this for?
 - Students who self-identify as needing extra help
 - Preference will be given to students who got B+ or below in 3134
 - Must register for Sec 1 first, and then request SECTION SWITCH
 - All direct requests to register for Sec 2 will be ignored
 - Application details later

Exams

- Three in-person exams
 - Exam 1 on Tuesday, Oct 15, 4:10pm
 - Exam 2 on Tuesday, Nov 12, 4:10pm
 - Exam 3 (final exam) on Tuesday, Dec 17, 4:20pm
- **There are no make-up or alternate exams**
 - If you cannot make any of those exams, please take the course next semester
- Extended-time exams at ODS/CARDS must overlap with official exam time by at least an hour
 - You may not be able to have a class before/after AP

Prerequisites

- Absolutely required
 - 2 semesters of Columbia-level programming courses
 - Ex) COMS 1004 & COMS 3134
- Pretty much required
 - COMS 3134 Data Structures
 - For general CS & programming maturity
 - Ex) I'll assume you can write recursive functions
- No C knowledge assumed
- No Java knowledge assumed

Topics covered

- C
 - Mastery of the C language is the most important part
 - Everything else depends on it!
- Intro to UNIX systems programming
 - I/O, Process control, TCP/IP networking
 - Sockets API and HTTP protocol
 - Final assignment: write your own web server from scratch!

Why C?

- It's cool
 - There are two kinds of programmers: those who know C and those who don't
 - *Corollary*: There are two kinds of *Java* programmers: those who know C and those who don't
 - Your kung fu will be better than theirs
- It's fundamental
 - Understand how other languages work
 - Understand how computers work
- It's useful
 - C is still useful for some things
 - Knowing C, you can learn C++ the right way

Grading

- **GRADING POLICY MAY CHANGE LATER**
- You get an overall score out of 100:
 - Exam 1,2,3 (25% each)
 - Lab assignments (25%)
 - Caveat: max lab score is less than 100
- I look at everyone's lab & exam scores in a big spreadsheet sorted by the overall score
- I decide cutoffs for letter grades A+, ..., D, F
 - No predetermined formula
 - Usually mean/median are around B/B+
 - No one gets F as long as they keep trying to the end

7 assignments (aka “labs”)

- Lowest lab score is dropped (converted to 0)
 - $(\text{sum}(\text{your labs+hw0}) - \text{min}(\text{your labs})) / \text{sum}(\text{total labs+hw0}) * 100$
 - Labs 1-5 are worth 100, lab 6 is 120, lab 7 is 150, and HW0 is 50
 - Maximum possible lab score: $(820-100) / 820 * 100 = 87.8$
 - May skip grading some labs, in which case formula will change
- Deadline
 - Soft deadline, and then hard deadline 2 days later
 - You use 1 late day if you submit within 24 hours after the soft deadline
 - You use 2 late days if you submit between 24 and 48 hours
 - After 48 hours past the soft deadline, no submission will be accepted
 - You have 7 late days total; up to 2 can be used for a single lab
 - Check late days: `/home/w3157/submit/check-late-days`
 - Late days are for unforeseen circumstances such as sickness
 - Please do not ask for additional extensions
 - Absolutely no exception under any circumstances

How to do well in AP

1. First and foremost, WORK
 - 4 credit course → 12 hour/week NOMINAL workload
 - That is 2 hours of AP, 6 days a week, starting **NOW**
 - Your mileage may vary, but consider that a bare minimum
2. Do the labs. I mean, *really* do the labs.
 - Don't just “get it working” – understand every detail
 - Don't code by trial & error – understand your errors
 - Don't let TAs fix your problems – it's all about the process
 - Private tutors are not recommended
3. Learn to read code on paper
 - Read & understand every line of solution & exam code
 - Then try coding them yourself without looking
4. Attend lectures and pay attention

Please don't cheat

- **REQUIRED READING:**

<http://www.cs.columbia.edu/~jae/honesty.html>

- You are cheating if you:

- Take code from other people, the Internet, or AI
- Look at solutions from previous semester
- Upload any class materials (including your own code) to public repository (ex. GitHub) during or after this semester

- We can tell

- We compare your submissions all cheat code that you will encounter
- You submit work history – **minimum 5 commits required**
- As a beginner, once you peek at cheat code, you won't be able to come up with any other way to do the same thing

- Don't become a human being that AI can replace

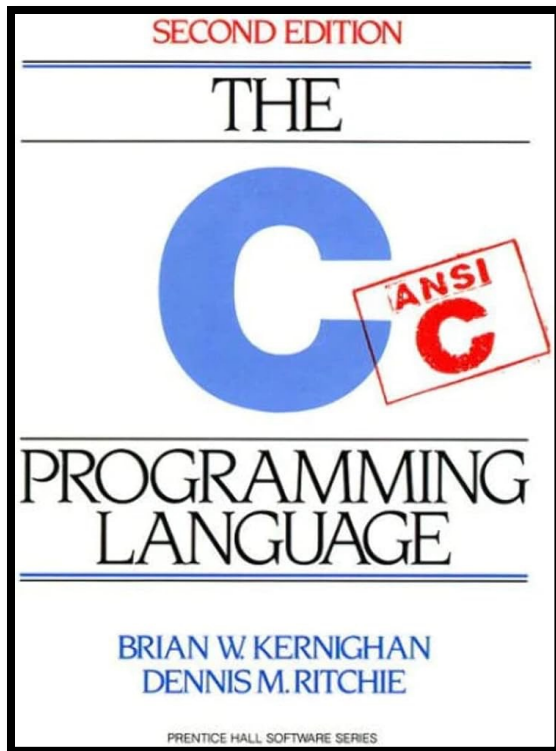
Class ListServ

- Communication between all of us
 - Official announcements, lecture notes, lab assignments
 - Should be the 1st place to go for non-personal questions
- Do:
 - Ask & answer questions
 - Provide helpful tips and fun links for your classmates
 - Be considerate & friendly
- Don't:
 - Ask questions without first trying to solve it on your own
 - Post code or critical info that leads directly to solution
 - Be impatient & rude
- Please use class listserv rather than the TA mailing list
 - The class is huge; please help us not duplicate work
 - General questions to the TAs may be redirected to class listserv with your ID removed
 - Never send a same question individually to multiple TAs
- There will be an ongoing anonymous feedback form

Manage ListServ emails

- Manage high volume – filter by tags in subject
 - [cs3157] – all emails from class listserv will have this tag
 - [ANN] – important announcements from me or TAs
 - [LABn] – information relevant on a particular lab
 - Examples:
 - [cs3157][ANN] Sample midterm
 - [cs3157][ANN][LAB7] Correction on lab7 instruction
 - [cs3157][LAB6] in case you're curious about fdopen()
- Setup Gmail filters
 - I will send an example soon
- Please keep up
 - At a minimum, you must read every single ANN

Textbooks



- Required
 - *The C Programming Language* (2nd ed.)
 - aka K&R C
 - By Kernighan and Ritchie
 - Simply the best
 - Survey in Spring 2016: only 4% bought them at the local bookstore
 - Get them wherever you usually get your textbooks
- Recommended for self-studying beyond this class
 - *Advanced Programming in the UNIX Environment* (3rd ed.)
 - By Stevens & Rago

HW0: 50 points total

- **Part A (20 points): due Tuesday 9/3, 11:59pm (tonight)**

1. Subscribe to 3157 ListServ today

- <https://lists.cs.columbia.edu/mailman/listinfo/cs3157>
- In the textbox “Your name (optional)” put **Your Full Name (UNI)**
 - For example: Jae Woo Lee (jwl3)
- **You must reply to the confirm email (which might be in your spam folder)**
- Then receive “Welcome to the “Cs3157” mailing list”
 - This email contains your password for accessing archives of past postings
- **All emails to listserv, TAs, or me MUST include your UNI**
 - Sign it with UNI if you don’t use UNI@columbia.edu
 - Or just use UNI@Columbia.edu instead of first.last or whatever... (please)

2. Get the textbooks

- Start reading K&R chapters 1,2,3,4

HW0 continued

- **Part B (30 points): due Thursday 9/5, 11:59pm**
 1. Read the following two documents:
 - <http://www.cs.columbia.edu/education/honesty>
 - <http://www.cs.columbia.edu/~jae/honesty.html>
 2. Send me an email containing:
 - Subject: “[3157] hw0-UNI”
 - Without the quotes, sole space before hw0, UNI replaced with your actual UNI in lowercase
 - Your name, major & school program, year
 - Ex) Jae Woo Lee, Physics, Columbia College, class of 1994
 - Your pledge
 - see honesty.html above
 - CS classes taken and/or other programming background
 - Optionally anything else you want to let me know
 - Optionally attach a picture of you, but please reduce image file size to about 100KB

How to apply for Section 2

- Send me an email by **Fri, 9/6, 11:59pm**
- Subject: “[3157] sec2-application-UNI”
 - Without the quotes, sole space before sec2 (lowercase sec), UNI replaced with your actual UNI in lowercase
- Include the following info:
 1. Confirm you are free in TR 4:10-5:25 slot
 2. Confirm you are (or will be shortly) registered in Sec 1
 - **The only way to get into Sec 2 is to request a section switch**
 3. Your grades in 1004 & 3134
 4. Briefly tell me why you want to be in Sec 2