CS 320 Principles of Programming Languages
Fall 2020 Syllabus

Instructor:
Katie Casamento
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Office hours: Monday 2-3pm or by appointment (Zoom link on D2L)

Teaching assistants:
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Office hours: TBD

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Slack channel:
#320-fall-2020 on pdx-cs server

Lecture: (Zoom link on D2L)
Tuesday 10-11:50am (Zoom link on D2L)
Live ("synchronous") attendance optional
Lecture recordings available on D2L within 48 hours of live lectures

Please keep your webcam and microphone off during live lectures!

Lab: (Zoom link on D2L)
Tuesday 2-3:50pm
Wednesday 2-3:50pm
Thursday 10-11:50am, 2-3:50pm
Live attendance optional but strongly encouraged
Recordings of answers to student questions available on D2L within 72 hours of live labs

Please try to come to the lab section you're signed up for in order to keep each lab relatively small, but if you can't make it to your normal session for whatever reason, feel free to show up at a different section without asking for permission or anything - it's not like we have to worry about having enough seats!

Broadcasting video and/or audio is **optional** in labs; you will not be recorded unless you choose to ask a question on record. If you want to ask a question in lab without being recorded, the instructor/TA will repeat the question on the recording instead, leaving out any personal information.

You must submit individual work on lab assignments. In general, you may talk with other students about any material in this course at any time, but you may not share any code or writing from your own answers on an assignment with any other students until after grades for the assignment have been released.

You may share other code with other students freely, as long as it does not come from your individual work on an assignment - for example, you may not share an in-progress assignment answer with another student in order to ask them for help with it, but you may write a different piece of Elm code to share with them that exhibits your problem without copying directly from your individual work on the assignment. Students caught sharing assignment answers in violation of this rule will be reported for academic misconduct to the university Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

Academic misconduct:
Along with the lab rules stated above, students in CS 320 are required to follow the university's Student Code of Conduct in all interactions with faculty and other students.

Required textbook:
None. If you want additional reading, I recommend *Concepts of Programming Languages* by Sebesta and *Types and Programming Languages* by Pierce, and I'm happy to answer questions about additional reading material!

Software:
Labs will be conducted primarily in Elm, a relatively recent language designed mainly for high-reliability web development. We won't actually do any web development in this course, though. The first lab will walk you through the process of setting up an Elm development environment to use in the rest of the labs in the course.

Grading:
The only graded content in this course is the lab assignments.
These come with tests that you can run to check your own answers.
If you **follow the instructions** and pass all the tests for a question, you will get full points for it, guaranteed, even if it turns out later that the tests were buggy and should not have passed.

The tests may not always check that you followed all relevant instructions in the question!

Please, for my sake, do not ever ask the instructor/TA anything along the lines of "how do I get an A in this class". You get an A by doing well on the assignments, and the assignments are not designed to have hidden shortcuts that we might reveal to you if you ask nicely, so the only answer you're going to get is "do well on the assignments". Final grades will be on a curve, so a final grade of 90% or above guarantees you an A but lower percentages will likely also qualify for A grades depending on the overall grade spread at the end of the course.

You will get at least a B in the course as long as you submit some meaningful work on all of the assignments by the respective deadlines, even if some of your individual lab scores are low. Please try to use this fact to avoid stressing too much about your final grade in this course.

Individual questions in the lab assignments are not given point values until the grading process starts; this allows me to adjust the grading scale based on my observation of how challenging the questions actually are to students, instead of how challenging I predict they'll be when I'm writing up the lab content. This means better lab grades for you! If you find that this messes up your ability to prioritize your time, that means you're prioritizing the wrong way: these labs are designed to be worked through front to back in order, so instead of trying to skim for the most "valuable" questions, you should always focus on the first question first, and then focus on the second question next, and so on.

In short: if you're just here to get a grade with minimum effort and move on, your best bet is to convince yourself to be happy with a B at minimum and then half-ass the lab work. I won't be mad at you for that! If you're here to learn the course material, your best bet is to focus on the material rather than the grade, and you can be pretty confident that will earn you an A in the end. In neither of these scenarios does it benefit you to obsess over the relative weights of individual questions.

If you're here to get a guaranteed A with minimum effort, sorry, but that is a self-defeating goal. Your choices are to settle for a potential B or to put in more than minimum effort.