Introduction to the Class

©2019 Dr. William T. Verts

Who Am I?

- I am “Senior Teaching Faculty”,
  - Equivalent to a “Teaching Full Professor”
- I got my Ph.D. at UMass, in COMPSCI,
- I have been COMPSCI faculty since 1990,
- I have been teaching COMPSCI 105 since then.
- What to call me:
  - “Dr. Bill” or
  - “Professor Verts”

Really, who is Dr. Bill?

- I am in my early 60s.
- I grew up in Oregon.
- I am the fac. advisor for the UMass Outing Club.
- I am one of the 2018 winners of the UMass Distinguished Teaching Award.
- I am a fair carpenter, but one hell of a good cook.
- I listen to seriously weird-ass music.
- I watch a lot of anime.

Adventures in Wyoming

Adventures in Maine

Adventures in Massachusetts
How to Find Dr. Bill

My Office in LGRC A357:
Go in Main Door, then up 2 Floors

COMPSCI Building:
I’m not there, but my mail goes there.

Contact Information
• Phone: ☝️
• Email: verts@cs.umass.edu
• Web: http://people.cs.umass.edu/~verts
• Office Hours: M/W/F 2:45-3:45 & by appt.
• Talk to me on the street or in the Blue Wall!

What Do I Need for the Class?
• Computer (Mac or Windows)
• Printer access (B&W fine, color not required)
• Working Web Connection
• Web Browser (Firefox or Chrome, not Safari)
• Microsoft Office (recent version)
• Free Software (I’ll show you how to install it)
  – Mac: Fugu
  – Windows: PuTTY, WinSCP

What Do I Need for the Class?
• Books
  – Computer Literacy Laboratory Manual (2019)
  – Computer Science Companion (4th Edition)
• Flash Drive (any size, SanDisk recommended)
• Stapler
Books: Lab Manual

The Companion and IT Minor

- I teach four different classes per year:
  - COMPSCI 105 (Computer Literacy, Fall & Spring)
  - COMPSCI 119 (Python Programming, Fall & Spring)
  - COMPSCI 120 (Problem Solving w/Internet, Fall)
  - COMPSCI 145 (Representing Information, Spring)
- All satisfy requirements for IT Minor (ask!),
- All require the Companion.

Books: Companion

Course Scoring

- I generate a score for you based on those percentages, then round to nearest integer:
  - 90% → A
  - 88% → A-
  - 86% → B+
  - 84% → B
  - 83% → C+
  - 80% → C
  - 79% → D+
  - 78% → D
  - <79% → F

Course Scoring

- 20% Midterm (October 17, 7pm, Room TBA)
- 20% Final Exam (December 13, 1pm, HASA 20)
- 40% Lab Assignments (in Lab Manual)
- 15% Homework (on-line, also in Lab Manual)
- 5% In-Class Quizzes (NO MAKE UPS EVER)
- Extra Credit Homeworks (Lab Manual)
- Extra Credit Term Paper (Lab Manual)

TAs

- We have a bunch of TAs for the class,
- They will hold office hours in LGRT 222,
- I haven’t met all of them yet.
- We will also have undergrad graders.
- You will pick up graded work in LGRT 222 during office hours (for any TA from any of my classes).
Get the Right Door! LGRT 222

On-Line Grades Reporter

- I don’t use Moodle or Blackboard,
- But instead my own custom grade software:

Please Do Not...

- …call me or TAs at home,
- …email me with trivial questions,
- …email attachments (they’ll be deleted),
- …“Friend” me on Facebook, Twitter, etc.,
- …let your cell phone disrupt the class.

Please Do...

- …email me when you have serious questions:
  - Put COMPSCI 105 in subject line
  - Put your name in message body
  - Write clearly (no emojis or text abbreviations)
- …email me immediately if you must leave school for an extended time (illness, etc.)
- …your own work (academic dishonesty is taken very seriously)
Take a Breather

Any Questions?

Ready for some Computer Science?

A Note about Technology

Sir Arthur C. Clarke
1917-2008

"Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic."

Which brings us to...

How Many Computers Am I Wearing Right Now?

What Does this Tell You?

• Computers are everywhere.
• Not all computers look like a computer.
• Many non-computer devices use the same technology.
• Don’t laugh at nerds; they’re having more fun than you are!
How long have Computers been around?

Depends on what you call a “Computer”
- Does it require energy to operate?
- Does it transform information?
- Is it analog or digital?
- Does it require human input?
- Does it do anything automatically?
- Does it do everything automatically?
- Is it self-aware? (Wow, that’s a jump!)

So, how long have they been around?

Abacus (digital, many cultures)

Antikythera Machine (analog)

Slide Rules (analog)
IBM 5 Megabyte Hard Drive (1956)

Copyrights

• Pictures in this presentation are:
  – My own personal photographs,
  – From Wikipedia,
  – So common on the Web few people (if anybody) knows the original source.