CMPSCI 105 – Lecture #1
Introduction to the Class

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 faculty advisor for the UMass Outing Club (UMOC).
- 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.

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 (2018)
  – Computer Science Companion (REVISED 3RD)
• Flash Drive (any size, SanDisk recommended)
• Stapler
Books: *Lab Manual*

*Computer Literacy Laboratory Manual*

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Books: *Companion*

*Computer Science Companion*

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**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*.

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**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
  - 82% → C+
  - 80% → C
  - 78% → D+
  - 76% → D
  - 74% → C+
  - 72% → <50% or miss either exam → F

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**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...

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?

Antikythera Machine (analog)

Abacus (digital, many cultures)

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

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  - So common on the Web few people (if anybody) knows the original source.