CMPSCI 105 – Lecture #1
Introduction to the Class
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Who Am I?
• I am a “Senior Lecturer II”,
  – 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
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.

Course Scoring

- I generate a score for you based on those percentages, then round to nearest integer:
  - 90% → A
  - 88% → A-
  - 86% → B+
  - 78% → B
  - 76% → C+
  - 64% → C
  - 62% → C-
  - 60% → D+
  - 50% → D
  - <50% or miss either exam → F

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!

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)

Pascaline Adder (digital)

Leibniz Multiplier (digital)
Jacquard Loom (digital)

Babbage Difference Engine (digital)

Hollerith Tabulator (digital)

Margaret Hamilton
Apollo Guidance Computer (1960s)

IBM 5 Megabyte Hard Drive (1956)
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