Lecture Meetings
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
11:00am - 12:00pm @ SCI 113

Lecturer
Aaron Stevens, azs@bu.edu
Always include “CS101” in the subject.

Office hours @ PSY 228B:
Mon 1:00-2:00pm; Wed 2:00-4:00; Thu 2:00-3:00;
and by appointment.

Lab Meetings @ EMA 304:
CS101 A2 Thu 11:00am-12:00pm
CS101 A3 Thu 12:00pm-1:00pm
CS101 A4 Thu 2:00pm-3:00pm
CS101 A5 Thu 3:00pm 4:00pm

Teaching Fellow
Xianrui Meng, xmeng@cs.bu.edu
Tutoring hours: Fri 2-3pm; Mon 3-5pm; Tue 4-5pm
Tutoring hours held at undergraduate CS lab, EMA 302.

Course Description

CS101 is an introduction to computing and digital multimedia. The main ideas of computing are explored: algorithmic thinking, encoding information, using protocols and standardization, and abstraction. CS101 will discuss the practical application of these ideas by addressing questions including:

• What is a computer? What is computer science? What does a computer do?
• What is the difference between analog and digital information? Why are our computers digital?
• How does a digital machine represent numbers, text, images, audio, and video information?
• How does computation happen? How does the computer "know" how to do some operation?
• What is computer programming? How are computer programs created?
• What is the Internet? What does the Internet do? How does it work? What are its vulnerabilities?
• What is the World Wide Web? Where did it come from? How do we publish information to it?
• What are algorithms, and how do algorithms impact computation?
• How do web applications work? Google? Facebook? YouTube?
• How to secure your digital life?

To answer these questions, CS101 will survey a selection of fundamental topics in computer science. The applied portion of the course will cover designing and publishing basic web sites, image and audio manipulation and animation.
Books

We will use custom-published versions of 2 books:


Digital Media Primer, by Yue-Ling Wong

Other online readings and tutorials will be posted to the schedule page.

Grading

The following percentages are tentative and may be changed at my discretion at any time:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required lab activities (attendance and submission)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework Assignments (about 13)</td>
<td>30% **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scheduled Quizzes (6)</td>
<td>30% **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (written)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation: I will award up to 2 bonus points for perfect or near perfect attendance, participation/asking questions, and 2-minute quizzes*</td>
<td>2% BONUS</td>
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*2-minute quizzes* are occasional, unannounced, single-question quizzes that will be given sporadically throughout the semester. Points will be awarded for attendance and answering the question correctly. For labs, points will be awarded for attendance as well as submitting your work done during the lab. **At my discretion, the lowest one homework score, and the lowest one quiz score, will be dropped.

How to Prepare for Quizzes and the Final Exam

The most effective strategy is active recall. Reading the book, notes and examples alone will give you a false sense of familiarity. Instead, you must actively digest the class material, and practice your recall of it in question and answer form.

After each class meeting, review the class notes and examples, and especially points that I spend time elaborating upon. For each of these “main points” – there are probably about 4-6 of these per class meeting – you should write out a challenging question about the point, and prepare the answer.

By actively preparing questions that you know you can answer, you will be surprised how many of those show up on the quiz/exam.

Getting Help With Homework

The homework assignments in this class will be very challenging and often time consuming. Work on homework assignments as soon as they are given. Plan your time so you can so you can ask questions in class and get assistance in the labs and tutoring hours.

If you get stuck, the teaching fellows are here to help you. The best avenue for getting help is to email your TF, or to come to office hours. Emails will be answered within 24 hours, often sooner, during the weekdays, and by Monday at noon if your email comes in over the weekend.

Please come talk to me immediately if you feel like you are falling behind. I want to help you succeed, but you need to ask for help.
Policies and Miscellaneous

The official administrative business of this class will be conducted by email. Grade questions/disputes, explanation of absence, etc. will be processed via email so that we both have a written record of what was agreed.

Attendance and discussion/asking questions are expected and will be reflected in your grade. If you must be absent, please email me in advance to let me know why you won’t be in class, and to let me know what you will do to keep up with the assignments.
CS101 is not a correspondence course. Inadequate attendance is sufficient grounds for a grade of F.

Lab attendance and submission of the lab work is required. Lab work is not “graded” like a homework assignment, but rather it is checked for submission time/location for attendance purposes and for completion.

You are expected to attend the lab section for which you are registered, and attending another section will result in your receiving credit for the lab submission but not for attendance.

Late lab work will be accepted within 4 days, but only for completion credit (not attendance).

Assignments are due on the date stated on the homework assignment (to be posted on web).
- Assignments received within 0-24 hours of the deadline will be accepted with a 10% penalty.
- Assignments received within 24-48 hours of the deadline will be accepted with a 20% penalty.
- Assignments received more than 48 hours past the deadline will not be accepted or graded.

There are no make-up quizzes or exams. If you have to miss a quiz for a medical reason or other extreme circumstances, you must inform me in advance; it will count as your “lowest one quiz score to be dropped.”
If you miss more than 1 quiz, you will receive a 0 for each missed quiz.

No special make-up work will be accepted after the end of the semester. Don’t even ask.
In the event of a documented major medical problem, a grade of Incomplete will be given pending the submission of complete work. However, make up work “to improve one’s grade” will not be accepted.

It is the student’s responsibility to retain all papers, quizzes, and exams that have been graded and returned. Should these original documents not be available in the event of a grade dispute, I will need to defer to the own records.

Requests for review or re-grading of quizzes or homeworks should be brought to your TF or instructor in office hours or submitted by email, no later than 2 weeks after the quiz/homework has been returned, and no later than the last class day of the semester.

Grades are not negotiable. Don’t even ask – just do the work and you’ll get the grade you deserve. Of course, please bring any clerical grading errors to my attention by email and I will gladly fix them.

Withdrawing from the Course

The last day to drop a class (without a “W” grade) is Tuesday, February 21, 2012
The last date to withdraw and receive a “W” grade is Friday, March 30, 2012
Plagiarism, Collaboration, and Collusion

All CS101 homework assignments are independent work.

It is the student’s responsibility to know and understand the provisions of the CAS Academic Conduct Code, copies of which are available in room CAS 105.

In addition to the definition of plagiarism in the CAS Academic Conduct Code, with respect to CS101, plagiarism is specifically defined to include (but is not limited to) the following:

- collaboration on the solutions/code you write
- copying any part of someone else’s assignment/program, even if you have permission and/or have modified the code
- sharing or giving your assignment/code or even a subset of your assignment/code to another student to review
- reviewing another student’s solution (including from past semesters)

It is my policy to use automatic plagiarism detection software, and suspicious similarities will be uncovered. I am required by Boston University and the College of Arts and Sciences to refer cases of academic misconduct to the Dean’s Office. The University takes acts of cheating and plagiarism very seriously; first time violators are routinely suspended for a semester.

What is acceptable cooperation?
Cooperation is recommended in understanding programming concepts and system features. You are encouraged to discuss the labs, the homework problem statements and expected output, and to seek and receive help with HTML, Photoshop, Flash, the Python programming language, any other software tools we use.

However, each student must write his or her own solution/code and other deliverables independently.