Comp 200
Barland

Course Info

Handout #1
2001.Jan.17

- **Course:** Elements of Computer Science
- **Time and Place:** MWF 11:00–11:50, Duncan Hall 1075
- **Instructor:** Ian Barland, e-mail `ian@cs.rice.edu`
- **Office:** Duncan Hall 3102; phone ext. 3843
- **Office Hours:** MW 13:30–14:30, or by appointment.
- **Textbooks:** *Algorithmics—The Spirit of Computing*, 2nd edition, David Harel, Addison-Wesley, ISBN 0-201-50401-4.

  Metamagical Themas, Douglas Hofstaedter, Basic Books, ISBN 0-465-04566-9.
- **Goal:** To provide an introduction to, and flavor of, the central ideas of Algorithms, Hardware, and the main subfields of Computer Science.
- **Evaluation:** The course work will be weighted as follows (tentative):

Homework	75%
Final Project	25%

  The final project will be due the last day of finals; details are on the class website at `čomp200/project.html`
- **Class Account:** The Owlnet system will be used for dispersing information. The class home page is at `http://www.owlnet.rice.edu/~comp200`, and the class newsgroup `rice.owlnews.comp200` will be used for answering common questions, any homework clarifications, and so on. You are expected to check it every few days. Homework 1 will contain instruction on using a web browser and reading newsgroups.
- **Homework:** You are encouraged to discuss the homework with others. However, all homework you turn in needs to be your own work, fully understood by you. A handy rule-of-thumb is the Gilligan's Island rule: After a group study session, do something inane (like watch a sitcom) for half an hour, and only then go back to writing up your homework (without any notes from the study session, naturally). Anything you write up is then reasonably considered your personal understanding. Acknowledge any group discussion on your homeworks. Homework need not be pledged (but you are still expected to follow the rules in this section).

  Similar guidelines hold for programming homework: It is perfectly permissible to discuss general approaches and algorithms with your classmates. However, copying any part of another person's program or letting somebody else type in your program is cheating and will not be tolerated, as well as helping anybody else cheat. All programs on owlnet should be stored inside your `comp200` directory (see Homework 1).

  If you are having problems with a syntax error (e.g. an error message "Ill-formed expression"), you can ask a friend for a quick help (less than 1min). If you have a more difficult syntax error, or your program is giving the wrong answer or a run-time error (e.g. "Can't take `rest` of an empty list"), first seek help from a labbie. If this is not convenient, you can ask a friend, using the Gilligan Island strategy: make a copy of your file, modify the copy with your friend looking, and later go back and re-create the corrections from your original file, to ensure your understanding. If you have any questions on this important point, please ask me.

Late homework will not be accepted unless previous arrangements have been made. However, you may turn in homework for a re-grade up to one week after it is returned to you. You can get back up to half the points you missed. (Grading will be more strict the second time around.) If you do this, you may still discuss the problems with others, but do not look at the solution set.

- Accomodations Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities should also contact Disabled Student Services in the Ley Student Center.

  Any student with a disability requiring accommodations in this course is encouraged to contact me after class or during office hours. Additionally, students should contact Disabled Student Services in the Ley Student Center.