



COMP 200: Elements of Computer Science Fall 2004 General Information

This course provides an introduction to the principle ideas in Computer Science, as distinct from the skill of programming computers. It focuses on the conceptual underpinnings of the discipline. It uses a limited set of programming exercises to give students a familiarity with programming and to reinforce important points from the lectures and readings. However, COMP 200 is not a replacement for an introductory course in programming.

Course Materials

1. The course will use Harel and Feldman's book, *Algorithmics*, 3rd Edition. The book is available through the campus store or through various online bookstores.
2. The course web site, <http://www.owl.net.rice.edu/~comp200>, is the definitive source for reading assignments, homework assignments, and advice on the final project. It also provides a rough syllabus for the course.
3. Lecture notes are available on the web site, but they are neither a complete record of class content nor an effective substitute for attending lectures.

Course Requirements

Students in COMP 200 are responsible for the content of the various reading assignments and the content of all the lectures. Homework will be assigned on a regular basis (see the homework policy posted on the web site). Three take-home tests will be given (two during the semester and one during the final exam period). Each student must complete a final project.

The basis for grading will be as follows

30%	Homework assignments
25%	Final project
45%	Tests (15% for each test)

These weightings are subject to a minimal performance in each area. To obtain a passing grade, each student must complete the three tests and a final project.

Accommodations

Any student with a documented disability who requires accommodations in this class is encouraged to contact me after class or during office hours, or to contact Jean Ashmore in Rice's Disability Support Services office. All discussions on this subject will remain confidential.