Welcome to CS 106

Winter 2020
Course Outline and Webpage

We will walk through:

• Course Outline on LEARN
  https://learn.uwaterloo.ca/d2l/home
• Course Website
iClicker
Do you have your clicker with you today?
Do labs start today, Monday January 6, 2020?

Hint: The answer is “yes”.
Technology in class

- Good idea
- Bad idea
The Pen Is Mightier Than the Keyboard: Advantages of Longhand Over Laptop Note Taking

Pam A. Mueller1 and David K. Pinkerton1
1Princeton University and 2Lernsys

In-class laptop use and its effects on student learning

Carrie B. Fried *

Winona State University, Psychology Department, 231 Phelps Hall, Winona, MN 55987, United States

24 September 2006

Monday September 07, 2015

Laptops in classrooms distracting students, teachers call for ban
Leave Your Laptops at the Door to My Classroom

Darren Rosenblum
ON CAMPUS  JAN. 2, 2017
Focus is crucial, and we do best when monotasking: Even disruptions of a few seconds can derail one’s train of thought. Students process information better when they take notes — they don’t just transcribe, as they do with laptops, but they think and record those thoughts. Laptops or tablets can undermine exam performance by 18 percent. Other studies reveal that writing by hand helps memory retention. Screens block us from connecting, whether at dinner or in a classroom. Kelly McGonigal, a psychologist and lecturer at Stanford University, says that just having a phone on a table during a meal “is sufficiently distracting to reduce empathy and rapport between two people.”
Philosophy
(i.e., why you should care)

You don’t have to become a computer scientist.

Nevertheless, there are good reasons to take the time to understand programming
Programming is an artistic medium.

Understanding programming will make you better at what you do.

GBDA Students: Future courses will rely on your programming skills.
The world needs designers who can code, or at least designers who understand the process.
To be straight from the outset, I don’t completely disagree with the premise. However, I think the statement, “we need designers who can code” misrepresents the underlying issue…

What we should be saying is that we need more designers who know *about* code.

The reason designers should know about code, is the same reason developers should know about design. Not to become designers, but to empathize with them. To be able to speak their language, and to understand design considerations and thought processes. To know just enough to be dangerous, as they say.