

CS 115 – Introduction to Computer Science 1

Spring 2020 Course Outline

Last revised: May 11, 2020

Course website: www.student.cs.uwaterloo.ca/~cs115/

Course email: cs115@uwaterloo.ca

Course newsgroup/message board: [Learn Discussion Boards](#)

Please note that any term-specific content of this document is decided tentatively at the beginning of the term and is subject to change. See the course website for current, up-to-date information

Course Philosophy

CS 115 has been designed with the diverse interests, backgrounds, and goals of students always in mind. As we are aware of the varied ways in which this material might be of use in the future, we have included concepts that are beautiful and universal.

The focus of the course is foundational concepts in computer science (rather than the mechanics of programming) and ways of thinking about computation (rather than solving tasks in a rote fashion). Students will learn skills that are applicable to new languages and environments, not just those used in the course.

Because of the fundamental nature of the concepts taught in CS 115, the course can serve both students whose primary interest in computers is in their use in their chosen areas of study and students intending to minor in CS.

Course Objectives

This course introduces the principles of program design and the fundamentals of computation through functional evaluation.

Intended Audience

CS 115 is intended for students who are familiar with the use of a computer (Web browsing, etc.) but who have no experience with programming.

Related Courses

Prerequisites: None.

Antirequisites: *BME 121, CS 135, 137, 138, 145, CHE 121, CIVE 121, ECE 150, GENE 121, NE 111, MSCI 121, PHYS 236, SYDE 121*

Successor: CS 116.

Hardware and Software

Used in course: Programs are written in subsets of the language Scheme. Student labs are equipped with the DrRacket integrated development environment running on networked personal computers -- Macintosh computers running OS X. DrRacket is also available on the Unix Math and CS undergraduate course environments. Versions for Windows, Mac OS, Unix/X and Linux are freely downloadable for use on computers owned by students.

References

Textbook (Optional)

The textbook for the course is "How to Design Programs" by Felleisen, Flatt, Fiedler, and Krishnamurthi, MIT Press, 2003. It is available in the UW Bookstore. The entire text is also available on the web at <http://www.htdp.org>. We encourage students to buy the paper version, as the course is built around the textbook and students must read most of the book carefully. If you choose to use only the Web version, please respect the copyright notice; do not print it out. You will not be permitted to access the solutions, so please don't try.

Course notes are also required.

Schedule

Three hours of lecture per week, plus an 80-minute lab.

Communication

Discussion Boards will be used to communicate with students throughout the term.

General Outline of Topics to be Covered

Introduction (4 hours)

Course philosophy and logistics. Numbers and arithmetic. Prefix notation for expressions. Simplifying expressions by substitution. Definition of functions: syntax and terminology. Helper functions.

Module 1: Introduction (4 hours)

Module 2: The Design Recipe (4 hours)

Module 3: Big Data - Working with Lists (4 hours)

Module 4: Making Decisions (4 hours)

Module 5: Deconstructing and Constructing Lists (8 hours)

Module 6: Recursion (4 hours)

Module 7: Advanced Recursion (8 hours)

Module 8: Other Data Structures (4 hours)

Module 9: Trees (4 hours)

Module 10: Imperative Programming (8 hours)

Course Notes (Lecture Slides)

The slides contain the text and images of the presentations as prepared in advance. The slides do not contain everything that the instructor will say, or demonstrate on a computer during the course of the lecture. Instructors may also add their own material. The purpose of the handouts is to relieve students from having to copy everything down, so that they can take additional notes covering what is not in the handouts.

Reading slides is not an adequate substitute for listening to the lecture. Presentations may also change slightly at the last minute, and timings are approximate.

Check the errata page for errors in the slides.

Guides

The survival guide contains advice on how to do well in CS 115 and avoid common pitfalls. We strongly encourage you to read it through as soon as possible and to attempt to follow the advice it contains.

The style guide contains information on how to create assignment and lab solutions, and how to submit assignments.

[CS 115 Survival Guide PDF](#)

[CS 115 Style Guide PDF](#)

In addition, we have provided a detailed example, from Module 5, of the style required for a function involving data definitions and templates: `gradesexample.rkt`

Instructor-specific materials

Instructors may make available additional material for their lecture sections, such as clarification of specific lectures or extra examples. These additional materials will be posted here. Currently, there are none.

Lab Exercises

Materials for the weekly labs, including interface files teachpacks and documentation are provided on Learn. Public tests are provided in order to give students a final check on their work, as the lab work is not collected or marked. They should only be used after students have completed the design recipe, including creating their own tests.

All programming problems will use DrRacket, an instructional development environment tailored for use with the CS 115 textbook. DrRacket is available for Unix (including Linux), OS X, and Windows (95 and up). Labs use Macintosh computers running OS X. We encourage students to download this environment and use it on their own computers. DrRacket is also available on the Unix Math and CS undergraduate course environments (command "drracket" under X11).

You can check your work by requesting a public test. Please see the style guide (PDF) for information on how to name and submit your work.

The links below provide materials for the weekly labs, including interface files. You are strongly encouraged to start preparation before your lab.

Spring 2020 Schedule and Contact Information

Week	Date	Topic	Lab	Lab Due Date	Assignment	Due Date
1	Mon. May 11	Module 1: Introduction	1	Tues. May 19	A0	Wed. May 20
2	Mon. May 18	Module 2: The Design Recipe	2	Mon. May 25	A1	Wed. May 27
3	Mon. May 25	Module 3: Working with Lists	3	Mon. June 1	A2	Wed. June 3
4	Mon. June 1	Module 4: Making Decisions	4	Mon. June 8	A3	Wed. June 10
5	Mon. June 8	Module 5: Deconstructing and Constructing Lists	5	Mon. June 15	A4	Wed. June 17
6	Mon. June 15	Module 5: Deconstructing and Constructing Lists	6	Mon. June 22	A5	Wed. June 24
7	Mon. June 22	Module 6: Recursion	7	Mon. June 29	Midterm	Thurs. July 2
8	Mon. June 29	Module 7: Advanced Recursion	8	Mon. July 6	A6	Wed. July 8
9	Mon. July 6	Module 7: Advanced Recursion	9	Mon. July 13	A7	Wed. July 15
10	Mon. July 13	Module 8: Other Data Structures	10	Mon. July 20	A8	Wed. July 22
11	Mon. July 20	Module 9: Trees	11	Mon. July 27	A9	Wed. July 29
12	Mon. July 27	Module 10: Imperative Programming	12	Mon. Aug 3	A10	Wed. Aug 5

Course Staff Contact Information

Instructors

Cameron Morland

E-mail: cjmorlan@uwaterloo.ca

Instructional Support Coordinator

Barbara Daly

E-mail: bmzister@uwaterloo.ca

Instructional Support Assistants

Jessica Payne

E-mail: cs115@uwaterloo.ca

Instructional Apprentices (IA)

Greg Philbrick

Teaching Assistants (TA)

Ashutosh Adhikari

Yanbin Chen

Micheal Friesen

Gregory Philbrick

Wei Sun

Johann David Wentzel

Yen-Ting Yeh

Grade Calculation

The grading scheme for Spring 2020 is as follows:

- Discussion Participation: 4%
- Weekly Reflection: 4%
- Assignments: 70%
- Midterm: 8%
- Final Exam: 14%
- Bonus Labs: 3%

Notes:

- **You must pass the weighted exam average in order to pass the course.**
- There will be 10 weekly assignments counting for 70% of the final grade, as shown on the Assignments page. Assignment 0 is not worth any marks, but it must be submitted.
 - You must pass the assignment portion of the course to pass the course.
 - All assignments will be weighted equally.
 - Your assignment with the lowest mark will be dropped from your final grade, you must however have successfully completed a minimum of 6 assignments and Assignment 0 must be completed (excluding discipline cases).
- Assignments are created by the instructors and are marked by the graduate student teaching assistants based on specifications drawn up by the instructors. The midterm and final are created by the instructors and marked by the instructors, tutors, and all graduate teaching assistants.

- In order to receive the 3% bonus for labs, labs must be submitted by the due date listed in MarkUs and you must pass the exam portion of the course.

Grade Appeals

Assignments: send an email to the course account (cs115@uwaterloo.ca) clearly stating what you feel was mis-marked. If you are not satisfied with the resolution, contact the instructor, within 2 weeks of the assignment grade being posted on MarkUs.

If you have problems with the marking of a midterm exam, you need to resubmit it to the tutors together with a written explanation within a short period (to be announced) after the exam is made available. In all cases, you should check the posted model solutions to understand your errors.

Course Work Policies

Assignment Submission

MarkUs is used for assignment submission.

Missed or Late Work

Late Assignments: Late assignments will not be accepted; consequently, you should aim to finish early, to allow for unexpected delays. You may submit a single question as often as you wish; submitting a partially-completed solution is a good idea, just in case you don't get back to it in time. The style guide gives information on how to submit your assignments.

After an assignment due date has passed, you may still submit your work for feedback only (no marks) but you must inform the CS115 tutors by email so they are aware of your submission and request for feedback.

Missed work due to illness: With appropriate, authorized documentation, assignment work may be excused. If a missed assignment is excused, its weight is distributed over the remaining unexcused assignments. In the interest of understanding the course material for future assignments and exams, students who miss work are encouraged to do it, submit it and request feedback from the tutors.

Corrected assignments: Corrected assignments will be available on MarkUs, usually the week after the assignment is due. The Post-Mortems page will discuss common errors found on assignments. Complete solutions will be posted on the webpage. If you believe that errors were made in the marking, please email an ISA and state clearly what you feel was mis-marked. The deadline for this is two weeks after the marks are released.

Group Work

There is no group work.

Other Important Information

Academic Integrity

In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. Check the Office of Academic Integrity's website, www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity, for more information.

All members of the UW community are expected to hold to the highest standard of academic integrity in their studies, teaching, and research. This site explains why academic integrity is important and how students can avoid academic misconduct. It also identifies resources available on campus for students and faculty to help achieve academic integrity in — and out — of the classroom.

Grievance

A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>. When in doubt please be certain to contact the departments administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Discipline

A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about rules for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean.

For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71, Student Discipline, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>. For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm>.

Avoiding Academic Offenses

Most students are unaware of the line between acceptable and unacceptable academic behaviour, especially when discussing assignments with classmates and using the work of other students. For information on commonly misunderstood academic offenses and how to avoid them, students should refer to the Faculty of Mathematics Cheating and Student Academic Discipline Policy, http://www.math.uwaterloo.ca/navigation/Current/cheating_policy.shtml

Appeals

A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71, Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72, Student Appeals, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>.

Note for students with disabilities: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AAS at the beginning of each academic term.

See [url{http://www.studentservices.uwaterloo.ca/disabilities}](http://www.studentservices.uwaterloo.ca/disabilities) for more information.

Note for students with disabilities

The AccessAbility Services Office (AAS), located in Needles Hall, Room 1401, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AAS at the beginning of each academic term.

Intellectual Property.

Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of their instructor, TA, and/or the University of Waterloo. Intellectual property includes items such as:

- Lecture content, spoken and written (and any audio/video recording thereof);
- Lecture handouts, presentations, and other materials prepared for the course (e.g., PowerPoint slides);
- Questions or solution sets from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, tests, final exams); and
- Work protected by copyright (e.g., any work authored by the instructor or TA or used by the instructor or TA with permission of the copyright owner).

Course materials and the intellectual property contained therein, are used to enhance a student's educational experience. However, sharing this intellectual property without the intellectual property owner's permission is a violation of intellectual property rights. For this reason, it is

necessary to ask the instructor, TA and/or the University of Waterloo for permission before uploading and sharing the intellectual property of others online (e.g., to an online repository).

Permission from an instructor, TA or the University is also necessary before sharing the intellectual property of others from completed courses with students taking the same/similar courses in subsequent terms/years. In many cases, instructors might be happy to allow distribution of certain materials. However, doing so without expressed permission is considered a violation of intellectual property rights.

Please alert the instructor if you become aware of intellectual property belonging to others (past or present) circulating, either through the student body or online. The intellectual property rights owner deserves to know (and may have already given their consent).

Mental Health

If you or anyone you know experiences any academic stress, difficult life events, or feelings like anxiety or depression, we strongly encourage you to seek support.

On-campus Resources

- Campus Wellness <https://uwaterloo.ca/campus-wellness/>
- Counselling Services: counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4567 ext 32655 / Needles Hall North 2nd floor, (NH 2401)
- MATES: one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services: mates@uwaterloo.ca
- Health Services service: located across the creek from Student Life Centre, 519-888-4096.

Off-campus Resources

- Good2Talk (24/7): Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Here 24/7: Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- OK2BME: set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 extension 213

Diversity

It is our intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well served by this course, and that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class. We recognize the immense value of the diversity in identities, perspectives, and contributions that students bring, and the benefit it has on our educational environment. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let us know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students or student groups. In particular:

- We will gladly honour your request to address you by an alternate/preferred name or gender pronoun. Please advise us of this preference early in the semester so we may make appropriate changes to our records.
- We will honour your religious holidays and celebrations. Please inform of us these at the start of the course.
- We will follow AccessAbility Services guidelines and protocols on how to best support students with different learning needs.