Introduction
Course staff
Your instructor

Adrian Reetz
Your instructor – Contact

Adrian Reetz

Office hours:
  • M 5 – 6:30
  • W 4 – 5:30

Office location:
  • DC 3121
Your instructor – Contact

Email:
• adrian.reetz@uwaterloo.ca
• Put “[cs135]” in the email’s subject!
• Work hours: M – Th, 9 – 6

Phone:
• LOL, nope...
Other people

**Instructors**: Byron Weber Becker, Charles Clarke, Mark Giesbrecht, Dan Holtby, Kevin Lanctot, and Adrian Reetz

Other course personnel: see website for details

- **ISAs** (Instructional Support Assistants)
- **IAs** (Instructional Apprentices)
- **ISC**: Karen Anderson (Instructional Support Coordinator)

Web page (main information source):

https://www.student.cs.uwaterloo.ca/~cs135/
Syllabus
Lectures

Tuesdays and Thursdays

Presentation handouts: available on Web page and as printed course pack from media.doc (MC 2018); I normally use my own (enhanced?) slides.

Textbook: “How to Design Programs (First Edition)” (HtDP) by Felleisen, Flatt, Findler, Krishnamurthi (http://www.htdp.org)
Tutorials

Fridays

Reinforces lectures with additional examples and problem-solving sessions.

Often directly applicable to the upcoming assignment.

Take your laptop and clicker.

You should definitely be attending if your assignment marks are below 80%.
Assignments

About 10 assignments, typically due Tuesdays at 9:00 PM

Software: DrRacket, v7.3 ([http://racket-lang.org](http://racket-lang.org))

Computer labs: MC 3003, 3004, 3005, 3027, 2062, 2063. Available for your use, but no scheduled labs. Most students use their own computers.

A0: Due soon. Must complete before you are allowed to submit any subsequent assignment

Submission: Using MarkUs. More in A0. Submit early and often. **No late submissions. No email submissions.**
Exams

Two midterms (Sep 30 and Nov 4, 7 – 9 pm)

One final (date to be determined by the Registrar)

Do not make holiday travel plans before you know the date of all your final exams AND take into account the snow dates!
Lecture participation

Several multiple-choice questions in each lecture.

Answer with your clicker (can be purchased at the Bookstore; register in A0).

One mark for any answer; two marks for correct answer.

Q3: If you pick an answer to this question at random, what is the chance that it will be correct?

a) 20 %    d) 20 %
b) 40 %    e) none of the above
c) 50 %
CQ 1

Did you bring your clicker today?

A. Yes
B. No
Marking scheme

20 % Assignments (roughly weekly)
25 % Midterms
50 % Final exam
  5 % Participation (on best 75% of the clicker questions)
Marking scheme – Participation marks

20 % Assignments (roughly weekly)
25 % Midterms
50 % Final exam
5 % Participation (on best 75% of the clicker questions)
Marking scheme

20 % Assignments (roughly weekly)
25 % Midterms
50 % Final exam
5 % Participation (on best 75% of the clicker questions)

To pass the course:
  • your **weighted assignment average must be 50%** or greater, and
  • your **weighted exam average must be 50%** or greater
Marking scheme

Assignments

Exams

50% or higher

49.99% or lower

50% or higher

49.99% or lower

Try again
Getting help – Who to ask

Tutors have regular office hours. Schedule is on CS 135 web site.

Instructors also have office hours.

Piazza: An on-line forum where you can ask questions, other students and instructors answer them.

• Regularly check the official assignment pinned posts
• Use meaningful subject headings (not just “A3 problem”; what’s your specific problem?)
• Search previous posts before posting; don’t duplicate!
• Possible to post privately if necessary
Getting help – Suggestions for success

Read the CS135 Survival Guide as soon as possible. Find it on the course web site under “Help”.

Keep up with your assignments. Start them early!

Go over your assignments and exams; learn from your mistakes.

Visit office hours as needed; earlier is better.

Keep up with the readings (keep ahead if possible).

Follow our advice on approaches to writing programs (e.g., design recipe and templates).
Getting help – Suggestions for success

Integrate exam study into your weekly routine.

Go beyond the minimum required (e.g., do extra exercises).

Maintain a “big picture” perspective: look beyond the immediate task or topic.

Read your mail sent to your UW email account.

Attend lectures; take notes.
Academic integrity

You must do your own work.

Policy 71 – Student Discipline: plagiarism, sharing assignments, etc.

Running out of time? It is better to hand in a partial assignment or nothing than to hand in someone else’s work.

Be careful about posting code to Piazza. If it looks like it could have come from your assignment, don’t post it (publicly).
Intellectual property

The teaching material used is CS 135 are the property of its authors. This includes:

• Lecture slides and instructor written notes
• Assignment specifications and solutions
• Tutorial slides and notes
• Examinations and solutions

Sharing this material without the IP owner’s permission is a violation of IP rights.
Themes of the course

Design (the art of creation)

Abstraction (finding commonality, neglecting details)

Refinement (revisiting and improving initial ideas)

Syntax (how to say it), expressiveness (how easy it is to say and understand), and semantics (the meaning of what’s being said)

Communication (in general)

The approach is by learning how to think about solving problems using a computer.
Introduction – End of module
Goals of this module

• You should understand how the course is organized.
• You should be familiar with the course resources available to you.
• You should know what you need to do to earn the mark you desire.
• You should know how to avoid plagiarism.