CIT 590: Programming Languages and Techniques

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About Me

• It’s fine to call me Rado
• Came to Penn for a PhD in 2011
  – Finished PhD in August 2017
  – Currently a postdoctoral fellow
• Will probably pursue an academic career
• I research safety and security of Cyber-Physical Systems
  – Applications to Medical and Automotive CPS
Course Overview

• Goal of this class is to show you the power of programming
  – Focus on breadth and different techniques
  – More practice oriented than undergrad intro

• Two units
  – Python
  – Java
Grading Overview

• 3 grading components
  – Assignments (60%)
  – Midterm (20%) – tentatively scheduled for Oct. 18
  – Final (20%) – not *cumulative*

• Historically most people get A/A-. If you do all the assignments and take the exams, you’ll probably get a B- at least.
Homework

• All homeworks will be scored out of 100.
• Each homework will typically be due Tuesday at 11:59p.m. the week after it’s assigned (only HW1 will be due a week later)
• 5-point penalty for late assignments per calendar day
  – No assignments will be accepted more than a week late.
Academic Honesty

• Homework assignments should be individual
  – You are allowed to discuss coding strategies/approaches with each other
  – OK to copy small code snippets from the web (make sure you indicate this with a comment)

• You are not allowed to
  – Copy or share each other’s code
  – Write code together

• **Cheating will result in an F in the course**
  – We have software to detect cheating
  – It has happened in the past...
How to Get a Good Grade

• Start assignments early!
  – Coding always takes longer than you expect
  – “The first 90 percent of the code accounts for the first 90 percent of the development time. The remaining 10 percent of the code accounts for the other 90 percent of the development time.”
    Tom Cargill, Bell Labs
  – “Hofstadter's Law: It always takes longer than you expect, even when you take into account Hofstadter's Law”
    Douglas Hofstadter, Gödel, Escher, Bach: An Eternal Golden Braid

• Read assignments carefully!
  – Points will be taken off for missing functionality
Online Resources

• Course website
  – http://www.seas.upenn.edu/~rivanov/cit590_fall17/cit590.html
  – Will post slides, homeworks and other information
• Canvas
  – Assignments, notes, readings will be posted here
  – Syllabus will be updated as class progresses
• Piazza
  – The fastest way to get questions answered (faster than e-mail)
  – I and the TAs will respond regularly here
• Email not ideal
  – Piazza will always be faster (99% of questions can be answered by TAs or other students)
Recitations

• 3 Recitation sections
• All recitations Friday
  – No recitation this Friday!
• Typically reinforcing and expanding on class material rather than new material
  – Instructed by TAs
TAs

• 6 TAs in this class
  – 2 per recitation.
  – You can get help from any TA (not just those in your recitation)
  – They will man Piazza and each have one office hour

• Getting to know your TAs can be very helpful for the class
Course Registration

• Course is full
  – So is the waiting list!

• We will look at the waiting list
  – But I can’t promise anything to anyone
Meet and greet!