Welcome!

COMS W3136
Essential Data Structures in C/C++
Fall 2015
Teaching staff

• Instructor
  – Jae Woo Lee (jae@cs.columbia.edu) – 715 CEPSR
  – Office hours
    • Jae’s calendar: [http://bit.ly/jae-cal](http://bit.ly/jae-cal) (will be filled by Friday)
    • First week only: Wednesday, 3:30-5:30pm, or grab me after my classes

• Teaching Assistants
  – 6 TAs
    • Tim Waterman tbw2105@columbia.edu
    • Andrew Feather af2849@columbia.edu
    • Robert Cornacchia rlc2160@columbia.edu
    • Bo Gan bg2539@columbia.edu
    • Devwrat More dmm2228@columbia.edu
    • Harry Lee hhl2114@columbia.edu
  – Office hours TBA
    • TA room – 1st floor, Mudd building
Who am I?

• Jae Woo Lee
  – Lecturer in Computer Science
    • Teaching first, research second
  – Just call me Jae (pronounced ‘Jay’)

• My background
  – Undergrad in Columbia College
  – Many years of professional experience
    • Designing and coding large-scale software systems
    • Running a start-up company
  – Came back to Columbia for Ph.D.
Prerequisites and course objective

• Prerequisites
  – One semester of introductory programming course
    • Ex) 1006 (Python), 1004 (Java), or equivalent
    • High school CS class you took 3 years ago does NOT count
  – No prior knowledge of C/C++ or UNIX is assumed

• Course objective
  – Meet the increasing demand for solid programming skills in many non-CS disciplines including EE & IEOR
  – Provide the minimum prerequisite for non-majors who are interested in taking upper-level CS courses
Course summary

• Follow-on course for ENGI E1006
  – Intended for non-CS majors
  – Bridges E1006 and many upper-level CS courses
  – Interleaves C/C++ language and data structure topics
  – Introduces professional UNIX programming tools

• Fusion of 3157 and 3134
  – 3157-lite: C & C++, but no heavy systems stuff
  – 3134-extract: only the most important data structures
  – Kill two birds with one 4-credit stone!
  – Perfect for EE & IEOR folks who came to 3157 to learn C/C++ but found it a bit too much
Review session

• Logistics
  – 1 topic / week
  – Multiple sessions repeated by different TAs
  – Evening hours
  – Attendance optional, but recommended

• Topics
  – UNIX basics, editors, Git, etc. (in the beginning)
  – Lecture reviews
  – Lab assignment clarifications & reviews
  – Lab solutions walk-through
  – Exam preps
Participate in class, please!

• Classes is no fun (for me, at least) if we don’t interact
  – Answer questions I pose
  – Ask questions anytime
  – Embarrass me when I’m wrong

• People are afraid to ask when they think:
  – “I’m the only one who doesn’t know this.”
  – “I can’t frame this question clearly and eloquently.”
  – “Maybe he just said it when I dozed off just now…”

• Big class, so I may not entertain all questions, but:

NEVER BE AFRAID TO ASK ANYTHING, IN THIS CLASS AND IN LIFE!
Course structure and focus

• Start with C and move toward C++, interleaving data structures throughout
• Focus on programming with data structures, not mathematical analysis
• “Job postings just say C++. Why waste time with C?”
Grading

• You get overall score out of 100, comprised of:
  – HW assignments – 33%
  – Exam #1 – 33%
  – Exam #2 – 33%
  – No final exam

• I look at everyone’s HW & exam scores in a big spreadsheet sorted by the overall score

• I decide cutoffs for letter grades A+, ..., D, F
  – No predetermined formula for cutoffs

• Booster: I reserve the right to raise one’s overall score by a small amount (typically less than 0.5%)
Booster

• Grade boost based on subjective evaluation
  – Most people will not get it
  – Have been used to boost some borderline cases
  – Can be up to 5% in theory, but never been > 1%

• Based on:
  – Class participation
  – Mailing list participation
  – Beautiful code
  – Awesome documentation
  – Optional work (if any)
HW (aka lab)

• Probably 6 HW assignments
  – Mostly programming assignments
  – Some of them may have written parts

• Deadline
  – Soft deadline, and then hard deadline 2 days later
    • You use 1 late day if you submit within 24 hours after the soft deadline
    • You use 2 late days if you submit between 24 and 48 hours after the soft deadline
    • After 48 hours past the soft deadline, no submission will be accepted
  – You have 5 late days total; up to 2 can be used for a single hw
    • Check your late days by running: /home/w3136/submit/check-late-days
  – Absolutely no exception under any circumstances
  – After you receive grade, you have 2 weeks to send re-grade request
Lab grading

• Grading model
  – You are a software company
  – I hire you to develop a product according to spec
  – You ship the finished & polished product on time
  – TAs are the end users who will pay you with grade

• What this means:
  – Your software doesn’t work, they don’t pay
  – Your software didn’t follow spec, they don’t pay
  – Your software didn’t ship on time, they don’t pay
  – But you worked so hard… they sympathize, but they don’t pay

• For example:
  – Your software doesn’t compile – you get ZERO
  – Deductions for not following spec EXACTLY
    • Ex) Spec asked for README.txt file, not README, not README.md, not Readme.txt
Cheating. Please don’t.

• You are cheating if you:
  – Take code from friends, or search for code on the Internet
  – Look at solutions that your friend has from previous semester
  – Upload any class materials (including your own code) to public repository (ex. GitHub) during or after this semester
    • You will be asked to sign a pledge before you receive your course grade

• We can tell
  – We know about the Internet too
  – You submit work history – **minimum 5 commits required**


• Result of cheating
  – Case 1: You get caught
    • Academic penalty – 1 letter grade down for mild cases; F for severe ones
    • Referral to the Office of Judicial Affairs
    • 16 people got caught in Spring 2015
  – Case 2: You get away with it
    • You will keep cheating for the rest of your life – have a nice life.
Class ListServ

• Communication between all of us
  – Official announcements, lecture notes, lab assignments
  – Should be the 1st place to go for non-personal questions

• Do:
  – Ask & answer questions
  – Provide helpful tips and fun links for your classmates
  – Be considerate & friendly

• Don’t:
  – Ask questions without first trying to solve it on your own
  – Post code or critical info that leads directly to solution
  – Be impatient & rude

• TAs and I respond to emails in this order:
  1. All pending questions on the listserv first
  2. All pending questions sent to cucs3136-tas@googlegroups.com
  3. Then individual emails
  4. NEVER send a same question separately to multiple people
     • You will get banned from ever sending an email if you get caught doing this.
Manage ListServ emails

• Learn to manage high volume – filter by tags in subject
  – [Cs3136] – all emails from the class listserv will have this tag
  – [ANN] – important announcements from me or TAs
  – [HWn] – information relevant on a particular hw
  – Examples:
    • [Cs3136][ANN] Sample midterm exam
    • [Cs3136][ANN][HW3] Correction on lab3 instruction
    • [Cs3136][HW4] in case you’re curious about the optional part

• Setup Gmail filters
• Keep up diligently

• Yes, I know about Piazza. Thanks for your suggestion.
Required textbooks

• *Foundations of Computer Science: C Edition*
  – By Alfred V. Aho and Jeffrey D. Ullman
  – Out of print, but available for free

   – By Kernighan and Ritchie
   – Simply the best

2. *A Tour of C++*
   – By Bjarne Stroustrup

1 & 2 available at Book Culture – 112 st, between Broadway & Amsterdam: [http://www.bookculture.com](http://www.bookculture.com)
   – In a couple of days they told me
Recommended references

• Other data structures textbooks
  – *Data Structures and Algorithm Analysis in C++*
    • Mark A. Weiss
    • 4th ed. Is the latest, but any edition will do
    • Older editions based on C might be even better if you can find it
  – *Algorithms (4th Edition)*
    • Robert Sedgewick and Kevin Wayne
    • Best introductory DS & Algorithms book I have seen, but in Java

• Columbia has a free subscription to Safari Books
Homework 0 – due noon tomorrow

(1) Subscribe to 3136 ListServ today
   – In the textbox labeled “Your name (optional)”, put Your Full Name (UNI)
     • For example, Jae Woo Lee (jwl3)
   – You must reply to the confirm email (which might be in your spam folder)
   – Then receive “Welcome to the "Cs3136" mailing list”
     • This email contains your password for accessing archives of past postings

(2) Send me an email to introduce yourself
   – Subject: “[3136] hw0-UNI”
     • Without the quotes, sole space before hw0, UNI replaced with your actual UNI in lowercase
   – Your name, major & school program, year, CS classes taken and/or other programming background
   – Optionally anything else you want to let me know
   – Optionally you can attach a picture, but please reduce the image file size to about 100KB

(3) Get a CS account (required for the course)
   – $50 per semester – my apologies for the added expense, but currently no way around it
   – Choose NO sponsor & BASH shell

(4) Get the textbooks
   – Start reading K&R Chapter 1,2,3,4