

**CS 157 Algorithms and Programming**  
**Syllabus**  
**Fall, 2009**

Professor Caristi

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Class web page: <http://faculty.valpo.edu/jcaristi/cs157>

Office hours (tentative): MWF 3:00, TF 10:00  
Other hours by appointment

**Grading:**

3 exams @ 20% each	= 60	
Final Exam	= 25	** Monday, Dec. 14, 8:00 - 10:00
Homework, etc.	= 15	

**Exam Dates**

Exam 1:	Thursday, September 17
Exam 2:	Thursday, October 22
Exam 3:	Thursday, December 3
Final Exam:	Monday, Dec. 14 from 8:00 to 10:00

**Text:** Building Java Programs by Stuart Reges and Marty Stepp

**Honor Code Regulations:**

**Homework:** anything or anybody is authorized aid, but you must have permission.

**Exams and quizzes:** There is no authorized aid (other than the instructor) unless specified for a particular exam.

I will accept late assignments, but a penalty will be assessed depending on how late the assignment is completed. Please note: it is **far better** to turn in an assignment late and correct than to turn it in on time while it is nowhere near being correct. If a program is turned in that is far from a correct solution, I may return it to you ungraded and require you to turn in a significantly better version later for at most 60% credit. Illness or other serious emergencies are valid excuses for late assignments. Please include comments at the top of the work you submit explaining your excuse. **Equipment failures are not valid excuses for lateness** unless they affect most people and last a significant amount of time. This means you *must* start assignments prior to the night before they are due! If there is a problem with the computers or other equipment on campus, certainly contact I.T. personnel, but also please let me know. Often I am unaware of difficulties in other buildings unless someone tells me.

Attendance is extremely important in this course. Much of what I will communicate is not in the texts, and has to do with style conventions and methodologies that you are expected to follow, idiosyncrasies of the software, and other things not included in any book. If you have to miss class for any reason, it is **your** responsibility to get notes from a classmate. If you are seriously ill, or have to leave campus for personal reasons, please be sure to contact the Dean of Students, who can inform all of your instructors concerning the circumstances and expected duration of your absence.

**At the end of this course you should:**

1. Understand the basics of the Java programming language. You will **not** be an expert on Java by the end of the semester, but you will have built a solid foundation for subsequent work in computer science.
2. Know how to design solutions to many types of programming problems.
3. Begin the process of analyzing algorithms for their time and space complexity.
4. Be comfortable with using objects and creating new classes.

## **Appropriate Behavior:**

Come to class! If you fall behind, it's still better to come to class than to miss even more. Even if you're clueless about what's going on in class, you'll still benefit from hearing the language.

Bring your textbook to class. You will need it often, and you can write notes in it.

Turn off cell phones and pagers, or set them to "stun".

Be considerate of the needs of others. It's not wrong to be bored, but it *IS* wrong when what you do distracts others (including me). There are lots of examples here of distracting behavior: texting, reading other material, talking, coming in late, leaving early, being obnoxious with food, snoring, yawning, dressing in an overly distracting manner, kissing, playing games, working on next semester's schedule.

Ask questions in class! It actually helps other people if I'm not the only one talking about programming. In fact, in this class there is a significant amount of "metalanguage" (language that is used to talk about the programming language, with technical terms like "instantiate", "polymorphism", "state", "send a message", and many more).

Never ask a professor "Are you going to be doing anything important in class today?"

Count on spending a lot of time outside of class on this course. You should find that most of what you do is very gratifying, and the more time you spend, the more gratification you will receive. And it's pretty instantaneous (i.e., you don't have to wait to get it).

Have respect for other people in the class. They may be at a different level in terms of how quickly they learn something new. But everyone is capable of getting an A in this course. Some people may take longer to get there, but everyone has valuable abilities and insights.