Welcome!

Luay Nakhleh
Computer Science
Rice University
We will be using the Canvas platform.

The course website is at

https://canvas.rice.edu
The Instructors

❖ Luay Nakhleh (call me Luay, which is pronounced Lo-I)
  ❖ Office: DH 3131
  ❖ Email: nakhleh@rice.edu
❖ Michael Burke
  ❖ Office: DH 3134
  ❖ Email: mgb2@rice.edu
Teaching Assistants

- 30 undergraduate TAs
- Their information (including office hours) is posted on the course website.
Credit and Blame

- Teaching this course is a team effort; the instructors and TAs take credit for that.

- I (Luay) am responsible for the design, style, contents and all decisions related to the course. If you don’t like certain aspects of the course, direct your complaints at me only.
Day, Time, and Place

- Lectures:
  - T&Th, 10:50-12:05, Herzstein Amphitheater

- Problem-solving sessions:
  - F, 11:00-12:15, Brockman 101
  - F, 2:00-3:15, Brockman 101

Attend the problem-solving session you’re enrolled in!
Policies: Grading

- 35% homework assignments
- 30% midterm exam
- 30% final exam
- 5% attendance

Midterm date & time: 2/26/18, 7:00-10:00 pm
Policies: Late Submissions

❖ Assignments are due when specified.
❖ No late submissions will be accepted.
❖ For emergency situations, contact me or Michael.
❖ having $m$ exams or $n$ projects in other courses, no matter what values $m$ and $n$ take, does *not* count as an emergency situation!
If you believe your work was graded incorrectly, please request *in writing* a regrade *within 7 days* of the work being returned, and describe what should be regraded and why.
Policies: Homework and Exams

- Schedule activities and trips around the course, and not the other way around.
- I will not grant an extension or give a makeup exam for students who travel for internship interviews.
Policies: Honor Code

❖ All assignments and exams are to be done individually.
❖ For assignments, you may discuss problems and strategies with others, and you may access online Python resources.
❖ You are not allowed to get solutions from anyone, and your final solutions must be your own, in your own words.
Policies: Honor Code

- You must specify explicitly on your submitted work what sites/books you used as resources, and whom you collaborated with.
- Each exam will specify what resources you may use.
Policies: Honor Code

❖ You may not search for homework solutions.
❖ You may not give access to your solutions to anyone.
❖ You may not get access to solutions from previous runs of the course (be it the instructor’s solutions or the solutions of students who previously took it).
❖ You may not post your solutions in the public domain.
Prerequisites

- COMP 130 OR COMP 140 OR COMP 160
- I assume prior knowledge of Python.
- We will not be using CodeSkulptor. You need to have Python downloaded/installed on your computer and learn how to use a proper editor for the language.
How to Succeed in this Course

- Attend class attentively
- Actively participate in the problem-solving session
- Read the book and do additional practice problems
- Start early on the homework assignments
- Think; do not memorize
- Seek help when you need it
- Practice problems beyond those assigned for homework
How to Fail in this Course

- Ignore any or all of the recommendations on the previous slide!
Why is this Course “Hard”?

“It’s a good thing this course is offered in the Spring only. If it were offered in the Fall, some freshmen students might still be under 18, and then this course would be considered child abuse.” — A COMP 182 student, Spring 2015
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❖ “But mathematics is not best learned passively; you don’t sop it up like a romance novel. You’ve got to go out to it, aggressive and alert, like a chess master pursuing checkmate. And mechanically following a proof laid out by another hardly encourages that, leaves scant opportunity to bring much of yourself to it.”
Why is this Course “Hard”?

“The Tripos system discourages exploration of any area of mathematics, however personally satisfying, not apt to show up on the examination. It granted professional success—a fellowship at a good college, say—to those doing well on the exam, not those demonstrating a bent for research, or boldness in pursuing it. *Tripos success became*, like marriage for the prototypical Southern belle, *not a happy prelude to one’s life but its culmination.*”
If you want a prelude to a successful journey in computer science and its applications, I welcome you wholeheartedly to this course and pledge to be there for you during the next 15 weeks.

If you’re here for an easy “A” or just to get it done with, you’ve, unfortunately, reached the culmination of your journey (not to mention that you’re in the wrong course, especially when it comes to the “easy A”!

So...
Questions?