
CSC 100

The Beauty and Joy of Computing

Introductions - To People and the Class

Notes for CSC 100 - The Beauty and Joy of Computing
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Personal Introductions... Things to Know About Me

I am... Dr. Steve Tate

You can call me Steve or Dr. Tate

You cannot call me "Hey You" or whatever comes to mind when you are having trouble with your homework at 1:00am

I am... Head of the Department of Computer Science

I came to UNCG in 2007 to help start the CS Department

I am passionate about computer science

I am... A cryptographer and computer security expert

I do research in "trusted computing"

I am... A person who tries to have a life outside of work

I have a wife and two kids

I like hiking, camping, music (mostly blues), and great food

What should we know about you?

Introduce yourself - name, your major, high school you went to (if a freshman) or year at UNCG (if not a freshman), and then pick one of the following sentences to complete:

- One thing I'd really like to accomplish in life is...
- An interesting thing I've done in the past is...
- Someone I find really interesting is... (because...)
- Something I'd really like to learn is...
- If I could do anything I wanted without worrying about having to earn a living, it would be...

Only one rule: Try to be unique (don't repeat what someone else said!)

Upcoming deadlines / expectations

Before Tuesday night:

- Complete student survey (link emailed to you)

Before class on Wednesday:

- Join discussion forum and post a brief message/introduction
- Make sure you can sign in to Blackboard and see the class

Who is CSC 100 for?

Primarily: Entering freshmen who want to learn about computer science, particularly those who are considering majoring in computer science

But also: Anyone else who wants to learn more about computer science.

But be aware: In this class we will also talk about some topics that are particularly important for 1st year students - how to succeed in college, study tips, etc. If you're a senior, you might find this boring - but then your role can be to give advice to the freshmen!

Also important: This class has a significant number of students in the AToMS Learning Community - welcome!

Video: What most schools don't teach



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKlu9yen5nc> (link on class web page)

A Quote....

Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.

- Arthur C. Clarke

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So to re-state the purpose of CSC 100:

CSC 100 is designed to make you appreciate magic, and start some of you on the road to being sorcerers.

(UNCG CS.... the new Hogwarts)

Connections Outside This Class

Computing doesn't exist in isolation, so we will make connections to other fields / topics throughout this class.

Some important connections:

- Precalculus (MAT 150)

Many of you are also taking MAT 150 (or MAT 190). We will make several connections to reinforce that material and so you can see how your math class is relevant to computing. (Don't worry if you're not in MAT 150...)

- Physical science and space exploration

Computing is indispensable to sciences, and we will highlight some of those connections in this class. AToMS students will follow up on this in the Spring ISL class.

- To society at large and your personal experiences

Readings from Blown to Bits, reading reflections, and the "story of the day".

Syllabus Review

A syllabus tells you what to expect from a class - the class rules, what is expected of you, how you will be graded, how you can ask questions, and usually a calendar or topics list for the class.

Let's review the CSC 100 Syllabus

Every class you take at UNCG will have a syllabus. Always (always, always, always, always) read the syllabus carefully on the first day of class. You might even want to review it several times during the semester as well for a refresher...

Tour of Online Resources

Class web page: <http://www.uncg.edu/cmp/faculty/srtate/100>

Blackboard: <http://blackboard.uncg.edu/>

Blackboard is for secure grade-related items: submitting homework, lab solutions, reading reflections, and checking your grades.

Class discussion (Google groups):

<http://groups.google.com/group/bjc-at-uncg>

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