

## Course Syllabus

<b>Instructor</b> Name: <b>Prof. Blank</b> E-mail: <a href="mailto:blank@caltech.edu">blank@caltech.edu</a> Office: ANB 115	<b>Questions?</b> For all course-related questions, please email <a href="mailto:cs002@caltech.edu">cs002@caltech.edu</a> . If there is something particularly sensitive, you may email Prof. Blank directly.
<b>Course Website</b> <a href="https://debuggi.ng">https://debuggi.ng</a> Visit early. Visit often.	<b>Lecture</b> Beckman Institute Auditorium MWF 02:00 – 02:55 PM

## Course Overview

This course is intended as a continuation of CS 1. We focus on abstraction in programming—both in design of programs and data storage. We discuss and implement fundamental data structures and algorithms via a series of labs and projects. We will grade on correctness and efficiency of our programs. This course uses Java as an implementation language, but we do not expect any prior Java programming experience.

## CS 2 is not an “easy” course, but we want you to succeed!

**Our goal is to help you succeed.** Please ask for help if you need it. Productively struggling is good, but struggling in silence is needless and painful. If you are stuck on any single issue for more than a half-hour, ask for help at office hours. We allocate a ton of TA and Professor time (more than twenty people-hours) to office hours because we want to provide as much help as possible, and we hope you will find them as helpful as we have in the past!

## Grading Scheme

To pass, you must meet the following criteria:

- Pass **at least two** of the quiz, midterm, and final.
- Complete every DUET and earn at least 50% every project and lab itself.

To calculate your shadow grade, we will use the following formula:

$$0.5 \times (\text{the best two of quiz, midterm, final}) + 0.4 \times (\text{Project Average}) + 0.1 \times (\text{Lab Average})$$

## In-Person Assessments

In this course, there will be both *formative* (i.e., primarily intended to help you learn something new) and *summative* assessments (i.e., primarily intended to see what you have learned).

### Formative Assessments (a.k.a. diagnostics)

During lectures, we give in-class exercises (ranging from multiple choice to fill-in-the-blank to write an explanation). Together, these questions will be called a “diagnostic”. **Differently from CS 1, the diagnostics WILL NOT BE GRADED.**

### Summative Assessments

There will be three summative assessments which will each be during a normal lecture period: a quiz, a midterm, and a final. Each of these will be slightly different, but they will all be 55 minutes in duration.

### Written Quiz

The written quiz, which will happen around week 3, is intended as a check-in early in the term to help you assess your current understanding of the material. 60% of the points will be slightly modified diagnostic questions from lecture. The remainder will be “novel” questions that you haven’t seen before. **To pass the quiz, you will need to earn a score of at least 50%.**

### Written Midterm

The written midterm, which will happen around week 6, is intended as a summative assessment that tests if you’re on track to meet our learning objectives for the course. 60% of the points will be slightly modified diagnostic questions from lecture. The remainder will be “novel” questions that you haven’t seen before. **To pass the midterm, you will need to earn a score of at least 70%.**

### Written Final

The written final, which will happen during the last week of classes, is intended as a summative assessment that tests if you’ve completely met our learning objectives for the course. **We expect that many students will NOT need to take the final, as you only need to pass two of the three in-person assessments.** However, we will note that, as this is a final exam, it will be cumulative, and thus may be more difficult than the quiz and midterm. 100% of the points will be “novel” questions that you haven’t seen before. **To pass the final, you will need to earn a score of at least 70%.**