CS130
Introduction to Software Tools

Professor: Chadd Williams

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Office 202 Strain
Office hours:
- M 2-3:30pm
- T 11-noon
- W 2-3:30pm
- or by appointment
Course Schedule

• The course schedule I have posted is tentative.
  – Will be kept up to date

• Contains:
  – handouts
  – assignments
Respect!

- Class starts promptly at 4:45pm!
- You: Arrive on time!
- Me: End class on time!

- Turn off your electronic devices!

- Participate! Ask questions!
How to Succeed in CS130

• Don’t miss class.
  – Take notes

• Practice!

• Start assignments early
  – they take longer than you think

• Do as much on your own as possible.

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How to Succeed in CS130

• Read the assignments carefully and follow all directions

• See me as soon as possible about any questions!

• Don’t forget that you are at a small school! – and you are paying for it!
Hi Chadd,
I’m working on the volume assignment and I’m not sure how to calculate a cube of a number in Excel. Any hints?
Thanks,
Lesley
Homework!

• Homework assignment #0

• Fill out the survey on the class schedule

• Bring a printed copy to my office

• DUE: By Friday 5pm

• Be prepared to discuss your answers!
What is Computer Science?

• Definition?
Why are you here?

• Why do you need this course?

• What do you expect to get out of it?

• What should you get out of it?
Problem Solving

• Definition?

• Steps?

• Examples from classes?
Research Tasks

Understanding the problem
"knowns" vs "unknown"

Formulating your strategy
Adopting the right method

Collect data

Understanding the data
Applying the right tools for the job

Analysis and answers
Conclusions
Presentation
Tools

- Word processor
  Good
  Bad

- Spreadsheets
  Good
  Bad

- Statistical Package
  Good
  Bad
Many tools. What challenges does this bring?
Research methods

• Tools vs Methods

• Types of research projects
  – Descriptive
  – Relational
  – Causal
Components

- Variables
- Time
- Hypothesis