

CS 211 COMPUTERS & PROGRAMMING - Fall 2000

Dr. Paul Chew and Dr. Matthew Morgenstern

Description of Course

This year we are dividing CS 211 into two subclasses or "streams". Both "streams" will cover all the required material.

- (1) The Regular Stream will have a Comprehensive Final Exam. There will not be a final project.
- (2) The Accelerated/Project Stream will NOT have a Comprehensive Final Exam, but there *will* be a course project and the same two Prelim Exams as the Regular Stream. The Accelerated/Project Stream recitation sections will expand on material in the main lectures, and cover closely related material that probably won't be covered in the regular recitation sections. The goal will be increased understanding of interrelationships with other aspects of programming languages, data structures, algorithms, and GUIs. These sections will be geared for students particularly interested in computer topics.

A wide range of students take CS211, from those who have been programming since middle school, to those who have recently completed their first programming course, and from those who plan to avoid computers after CS211, to those who are strongly interested in various computer issues and applications. These two streams were created to address this diversity. All material on the Prelims and Final Exam will be covered in both Streams.

Advice

Regular Stream: For students who want to master the material but not get into more depth than necessary, and are not keen about doing a programming project. There will be programming homeworks, and occasionally somewhat larger programming assignments.

Accelerated/Project Stream: For students who have a good to strong background in programming, including some object-oriented programming, and/or for students who did well in CS100 and really enjoyed it, or who like to get into more depth, and, of course, for students who are motivated by computer topics and issues.

The primary lectures will be the same in both Streams. The main classroom difference will be that the Accelerated Stream (recitation) sections will have a different emphasis and will be taught by Dr. Morgenstern, one of the two co-lecturers for this course.

The Accelerated Stream sections will be:

SEC 10 W 1220-0110P PH 407 (registrar # 703-883)
SEC 11 R 0230-0320P OH 245 (registrar # 704-045)

These sections will go into more depth on the topics covered in the main lecture. It is expected that less time will be needed to review class material, and more time will be spent on informal presentation, inquiry, and discussion. Homeworks may be different, and the project will begin around the middle of the semester. More advanced students, regardless of major, are likely to enjoy the assignments, project, and additional discussions of these sections.

A preliminary weighting of course components for the final grade *may* be:

	Regular <u>Stream</u>	Accel/Proj <u>Stream</u>
Prelim.1:	20%	20%
Prelim.2:	20%	20%
Final Exam:	25%	—
Project:	—	~ 30%
Homeworks:	35%	~ 30%

All students will have equal access to programming consultants and office hours. Both Streams earn 3 course credit hours. Modifications may be made to this agenda during the semester based on particular needs.

Contacts

There is a CS211 course newsgroup to which you should post questions. It is accessible at <news://newsstand.cit.cornell.edu/cornell.class.cs211>. The email address cs211@cs.cornell.edu is for the class also, when you prefer to ask a question in a forum less public than the newsgroup. Use of the newsgroup is encouraged.

The course web site is or will be up shortly, and should be accessible at <http://www.cs.cornell.edu/Courses/cs211/>. Assignments and readings will be posted there. You are responsible for frequently checking the web site for updated information and announcements.

If you must send email directly to any of the staff, please be sure to include at the *start* of the message's **Subject** line: **CS211**.

The names and contact information for all the staff will be posted on the web site.