

LEC 00

CSE 121

Welcome!



Questions during Class?

Raise hand or send here

sli.do #cse121



BEFORE WE START

*Talk to your neighbors:  
Introduce yourself!*

*What is your name? Major?  
What did you do over summer break?*

Music: 🎷 [CSE 121 25au Lecture Tunes](#) 🎵

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**Instructors:** Brett Wortzman & James Weichert

<b>TAs:</b>	Trey	Ava	Caleb	Elden	Anya
	Amogh	Reese	Anum	Suyash	Minh
	Samrutha	Hayden	Abdul	Sthiti	TJ
	Dalton	Aki	Janvi	Paul	Zach
	Ailsa	Spencer	Navya	Shayna	Cayden
	Ryan	Savannah	Sam	Jesse	Johnathan
	Anant	Tamsyn	Jessica	Nhan	

# Lecture Outline

## Today:

1. Introductions :)
2. About this course
3. Our learning model
4. Culture and community
5. Tools

## On Friday:

1. Our first program!
2. Assessment and grading
3. Collaboration

# Hi, I'm James! (he/him)

- New Assistant Teaching Professor in the Allen School
- I've lived in California, North Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, and now Washington!
  - Studied computer science and data science in college at UC Berkeley
  - M.S. in computer science at Virginia Tech
- Computer science interests: CS education; AI ethics, policy, and education
- Free time activities: traveling, cooking, reading, skiing, and playing Minecraft!



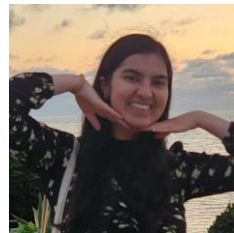
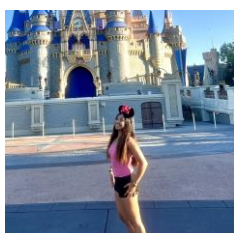
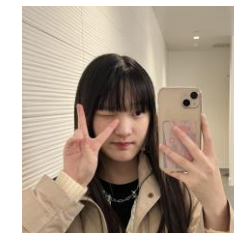
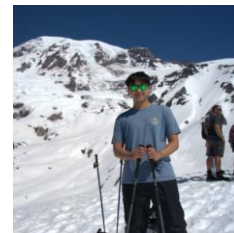
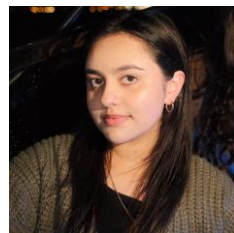
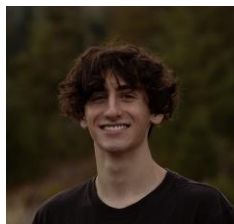
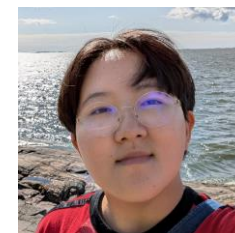
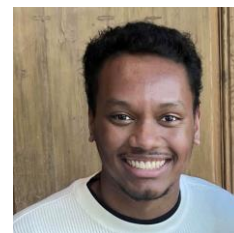
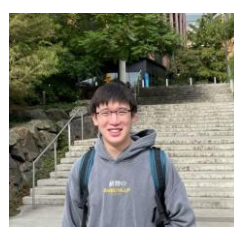
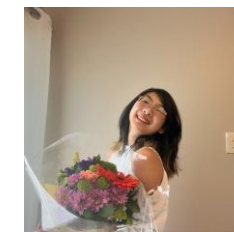
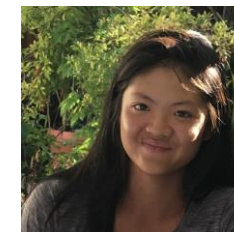
# Hi, I'm Brett! (he/him)

- Associate Teaching Professor
- Frequent intro CS instructor
  - Lead designer/developer of new 12X curriculum
- Also interested in CS education/pedagogy
- Previously:
  - trained CS teachers (and still!)
  - developed CS curriculum
  - taught high school CS
  - worked as a software engineering
- Non-CS hobbies: board games/RPGs, officiating football, announcing robotics competitions





# Meet your 34 fabulous TAs!



# Agenda

## Today:

1. Introductions :)
2. **About this course**
  - Learning objectives
  - Similar courses
  - Course components
3. Our learning model
4. Culture and community
5. Tools

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# Learning Objectives

*or, “What will I learn in this class?”*

Bottom line:

**Intro to Programming, part 1**

Not quite:

- “How do computers work?”
- “Intro to Java”
- “All you need to program”
- Math!

## Learning Objectives:

1. Computational Thinking
2. Code Comprehension
3. Code Writing
4. Communication
5. Testing
6. Debugging
7. Ethics & Societal Impact

# Other Similar Courses

Course	Good choice if...
<b>CSE 121</b> (this is us!)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You've never programmed before AND</li> <li>You are, or want to be in a major such as CS, CE, ECE, Info, etc. that requires Java programming</li> </ul>
<b>CSE 122</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You've done <i>some</i> programming (roughly one course worth) in any programming language AND</li> <li>You are, or want to be in a major such as CS, CE, ECE, Info, etc. that requires Java programming</li> </ul>
<b>CSE 123</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You've taken CSE 122 (or equivalent) AND</li> <li>You are, or want to be in a major such as CS, CE, ECE, Info, etc. that requires Java programming</li> </ul>
<b>CSE 143</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You took CSE 142 (at UW, through UWHS, or at community college) OR</li> <li>You took AP CS A (or similar) and feel confident in <i>all</i> the material</li> </ul>
<b>CSE 143X</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You have programmed quite a bit before, but <i>not</i> in Java OR</li> <li>You have lots of extra time to put into learning and tend to pick things up quickly</li> </ul>
<b>CSE 160</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You've never programmed before AND</li> <li>You're interested in data science and analysis OR</li> <li>You'd rather learn Python than Java* OR</li> <li>You are, or want to be in a major such as Physics, Bio, Stat, etc. where your primary goal is analyzing data through programming (rather than building software)</li> </ul>

Also see: [guided self-placement](#) and [CSE page on introductory courses](#) for more info.



# Course Components

## LECTURES

x20

- We're here!
- Introduce concepts, practice ideas, discuss applications.
- Pre-class materials to prepare for class each day. Due **before** class.

## SECTIONS

x16

- Held in person
- More practice, reviews, applications
- TA advice, how to be an effective student
- Preparation for quizzes / exams
- Exit ticket done at end of section

Meetings

## PROGRAMMING ASSIGNMENTS

x4

- Structured assignments
- Programming in Java
- Applying & implementing course concepts

## QUIZZES

x3

- Taken in quiz section
- 45 minutes on paper

## CREATIVE PROJECTS

x4

- More open-ended assignments
- Explore new ideas and applications

## EXAM

x1

- Culminating exam
- **Wed, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>**
- 12:30 – 2:20 PM

Graded Assignments

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# Digression: My Pandemic Hobby

*Amigurumi*: Japanese art of creating crocheted or knitted stuffed toys





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# How Learning Works

Learning requires **active participation** in the process.

It's not as simple as sitting and listening to someone talk at you!

- Requires **deliberate practice** in **learning by doing**
- Benefits from **collaborative learning**
- Does not work well if you cram everything!



# Pre-Class Materials

## PRE-CLASS MATERIALS

PCMs are a core element of the course

- Prepare for each lecture with **readings & practice problems**
- Should take **~30 minutes per lecture** (why we don't have Monday lectures!)
- Class will start with a brief recap, then pick off where we left off



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This means...

- We can spend lecture diving deeper, answering questions, and think-pair-share
- You can ask about pre-lecture material in class or section!

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This means...

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- You can ask about pre-lecture material in class or section!

Pre-class materials are **ungraded**, which means...

- It's okay if you find them challenging – that means you're learning!
- But you should do them, and we will assume you've done them

# Consistent and Active Participation

## ATTENDANCE

Attendance is not graded, but it's strongly encouraged!

- Lectures and sections are not going to be just us talking at you!
- Instead: live in-class coding, debugging, think-pair-share, and problem—solving
- Spending ~1-2 hours each day over Tuesday - Friday is **much more effective** than cramming before the assignment is due!

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Catching up:

- All lectures are recorded on Panopto; slides are on our website.
- Section materials are on Ed, but section will not be recorded



# Metacognition

- **Metacognition**: asking questions about your solution process.
- Examples:
  - **While debugging**: explain to yourself why you're trying this change.
  - **Before running your program**: make an explicit prediction of what you expect.
  - **When working**: be aware when you're not making progress, so you can take a break or try a different strategy
  - **When designing**:
    - Explain the tradeoffs with using a different data structure or algorithm.
    - If one or more requirements change, how would the solution change as a result?
    - Reflect on how you ruled out alternative ideas along the way to a solution.
  - **When studying**: what is the relationship of this topic to other ideas in the course?

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# Practice: Think

[sli.do](#)[#cse121](#)

## Think-Pair-Share: Inclusive Environments

CSE 121 will have many think-pair-share activities. Let's practice! Today's think:

*What was an experience you had that made you feel welcome or included in a learning environment?*

1. **Think** on your own, in silence for about ~ 30 seconds
2. **Pair** with your neighbor about it (and introduce yourself!!)
3. **Share** in sli.do & in class (I'll take a few volunteers from both)



# Practice: Think

[sli.do](#)[#cse121](#)

## Think-Pair-Share: *Exclusive* Environments

CSE 121 will have many think-pair-share activities. Let's practice! Today's think:

*What was an experience you had that made you feel unwelcome or excluded in a learning environment?*

1. **Think** on your own, in silence for about ~ 30 seconds
2. **Pair** with your neighbor about it (and introduce yourself!!)
3. **Share** in sli.do & in class (I'll take a few volunteers from both)



# The CSE 121 Community

## ABOUT US

- Currently 562 students enrolled!
  - *Very few* are CSE majors
  - Wide range of backgrounds, interests, and goals
  - ***Everyone*** is new to programming

## OUR GOALS

- Foster an **inclusive** and **supportive** environment for all students to thrive by:
  - being respectful
  - being kind and understanding
  - being honest
  - being ourselves

# The World Around Us

**College is challenging** and CSE 121 isn't your only class.

**Life is unpredictable** and things happen.

**We can't leave the impacts of the world around us** at the classroom door.

## OUR POLICIES

Our course policies are **designed for flexibility**:

- Resubmissions
- Dropping quiz/exam problems
- Asynchronous help
- Lecture recordings

## SUPPORT

We're here to **support you as a student and as a person**.

Please **reach out** if you're struggling or have circumstances that require extra support.

# Learning in CSE 121: Live Support Systems

Programming is hard! We **want** to give you collaborative support!

**Introductory Programming Lab** (TA Office Hours) – starting Week 2

- > 40 hours/week (and highly rated in the class!)
- Face-to-face help from TAs on **any** course questions

**Instructor Office Hours** – starting today!

- We don't byte!
- Great for things from lecture, personal questions, or just saying hi

# Learning in CSE 121: Async Support Systems

## Ed Board

- Best for content and logistics questions – 562 of you >> 36 of us!!
- Encourage public posts, except for things about **your** graded work
- Answer other students' questions – great way to learn!

## Email

- Best for personal circumstances and/or private questions
- If unsure, always feel free to email Brett and James  
([cse121-instructors@cs.washington.edu](mailto:cse121-instructors@cs.washington.edu))
- May politely ask you to post on Ed instead!
- For emails, **please use your UW email** (protecting student privacy!)

# Help Us Improve!

This is still a relatively new course! We're *always* looking for feedback on how to improve the class for you and for future students.

- We ***really*** value your feedback!
- Let us know what's working and what isn't working for you!

Several feedback mechanisms:

- Built into the class (e.g. reflections, mid-quarter feedback sessions)
- Post on discussion board (can be public/private)
  - Note: anonymous is anonymous to other students, *not* to staff
- Use [CSE's Anonymous Feedback Tool](#) (also on website)

# Agenda

## Today:

1. Introductions :)
2. About this course
3. Our learning model
4. Culture and community
5. **Tools**
  - Course website
  - Ed
  - AI in CSE 121

## On Friday:

1. Our first program!
2. Assessment and grading
3. Collaboration



# Course Website

**cs.uw.edu/121**

- Primary source of course information (**not Canvas**)
- Calendar will contain links to (almost) all resources
- Please **review syllabus ASAP**
- Let's go on a website tour :)

The screenshot displays the CSE 121 course website. On the left is a navigation menu with the following items: CSE 121, Home / Calendar (highlighted), Syllabus, Assignments, Resubmissions, Exam, Getting Help, Course Staff, Grading Rubrics, Resources, Search Site, Course Tools, EdStem (with an external link icon), Anonymous Feedback (with an external link icon), and Acknowledgements. The main content area on the right is titled 'Introduction to Computer Programming I Autumn 2025'. It includes a yellow note box stating '25au ver.' and providing a link to the course page. Below this is a welcome message and a button labeled 'What is this class? What will I learn?'. The 'This Week (at a glance)' section lists activities for Wednesday (09/24), Thursday (09/25), and Friday (09/26), including lesson titles and lecture times.

CSE 121

Home / Calendar

Syllabus

Assignments

Resubmissions

Exam

Getting Help

Course Staff

Grading Rubrics

Resources

Search Site

Course Tools

EdStem

Anonymous Feedback

Acknowledgements

## Introduction to Computer Programming I Autumn 2025

**25au ver.** Note: this is for the Autumn 2025 iteration of CSE 121. Looking for a different quarter?  
Please visit <https://courses.cs.washington.edu/courses/cse121/>.

Welcome to CSE 121: Introduction to Computer Programming I 🎉

► What is this class? What will I learn?

### This Week (at a glance)

**Wednesday (09/24)**

- Lesson 0: Course Policies, Hello World!  
A lecture @ 11:30 in KNE 130; B lecture at 3:30 in BAG 131

**Thursday (09/25)**

- Section 0: Welcome

**Friday (09/26)**

- Pre-Class Material 1 (Complete before class.)
- Lesson 1: Printing, Strings, Variables  
A lecture @ 11:30 in KNE 130; B lecture at 3:30 in BAG 131

# Ed

- Our online learning platform
- Lessons, sections, announcements
- Place to ask questions
- Also, **where we'll code!**
- Intro and walkthrough in **Section 0**

The screenshot displays the Ed Discussion board interface for CSE 121 - 25au. The top navigation bar includes the University of Washington logo, the course name, and various utility icons. The left sidebar contains a 'COURSES' list with 'CSE 121 - 25au' selected, and a 'CATEGORIES' list with options like Lectures, Sections, and Announcements. The main content area shows a thread titled 'Welcome to CSE 121!' by Brett Wortzman, an instructor. The thread includes a welcome message, course resources, and a note about the course website. The right sidebar shows the thread's statistics, including 216 views and 26 replies.

ed W UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON CSE 121 - 25au – Ed Discussion

[New Thread](#) Search Filter

**COURSES**

- CSE 121 - 25au
- CSE 122 - 25au 7
- CSE 123 - 25au 1
- CSE 590 E - 25au
- Course Redesign Clinic s...
- [8 more](#)

**CATEGORIES**

- Lectures
- Sections
- Pre-Class Material/Work
- Programming Assignm...
- Creative Projects
- Quizzes
- Resubmissions
- Final Exam
- Grading Clarification
- Social
- Announcements
- Slido Q&A Megathreads
- General

208 others online

**Welcome to CSE 121!** #1

**Brett Wortzman** INSTRUCTOR/LEAD TA 19 hours ago in [Announcements](#) 216 VIEWS

Hi all!

26 Welcome to CSE 121! 🎉! My name is [Brett Wortzman](#), I'll be one of your instructors for CSE 121 in Autumn 2025 alongside [James Weichert](#). We are really excited to be working with you in CSE 121! With the quarter officially starting this week, we wanted to get some important information out so you can prepare.

We hope you all managed to stay safe and healthy and had an enjoyable summer break. You're receiving this email on our Ed Discussion board, which will be one of the main places for you to connect with your classmates and the course staff. Please see post [#2](#) for more information on how to use Ed Discussion.

This is a long message with a lot of information. Some of it will be covered in class this week also, but please try to at least skim this whole announcement, and pay particular attention to parts in **bold**.

**Resources**

Our course website will be published soon, and will have all the information and resources you'll need. The URL for the site is <http://cs.uw.edu/121>. Please bookmark or remember this site, as you'll want to access it frequently. We will post again when the site is published.

Please note the course website is still under development and is subject to change!

**The course website will be the main place for you to see updates and find information about our course.** This includes the [syllabus](#) and the [calendar](#). There is a lot there, so we will spend much of the first day of class talking about the class and its structure. The course website will be your main place to find new links to lessons, assignments, and other course resources.

The only other place you will need to check regularly is this Ed Discussion board (right here!). Ed is where you can post questions about the course that your peers or the course staff can answer. We encourage you to visit the discussion board often to pitch in on the discussions. We will also post any announcements on the discussion board. You can learn more about how to use Ed in [#2](#).

Note that we generally do not use Canvas; the website will be your primary source of course information. Our Canvas course is not currently published, so don't worry if you can't find it.

**First Day of Class (September 24)**

Our first day of class is this Wednesday, September 24! We will spend a bit of the first day reviewing some information about the syllabus and setting expectations for course policies. This message provides the most important things before attending class later this week.

# Some Other Course Tools



## sli.do

- Ask questions in class
- Live activities (ungraded)
- No account needed



## Canvas

- Panopto lecture recordings (also linked from website)
- Some grades\*

My Digital Hand

- Queueing in office hours



## Gradescope

- Quiz and final exam grading

# AI and CSE 121: Our Philosophy

Computing applications enabled by **artificial intelligence (AI)** are increasingly common and more widely used for a variety of tasks.

It is becoming more difficult to teach an introductory computing course without acknowledging the **existence of AI tools**.

# AI and CSE 121: Our Philosophy

Computing applications enabled by **artificial intelligence (AI)** are increasingly common and more widely used for a variety of tasks.

It is becoming more difficult to teach an introductory computing course without acknowledging the **existence of AI tools**.

But as first-time programmers, **you still need to learn and practice effectively using core programming ‘building blocks’**.

This is what CSE 121 is for.

# CSE 121 AI Policy

***No part of any graded work may touch an AI tool.***

*You may not copy and paste any work generated by AI into any graded submission, nor may you copy and paste any work from or for a graded assignment into an AI tool. All other uses of AI on graded work must be cited.*



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## ALLOWED

- Asking AI to **explain an error message**
- Asking AI to **explain the functionality of non-graded code** snippets
- Asking AI to **suggest additional information** or resources

## PROHIBITED

- **Generating code, comments, reflections**
- Using AI to **'solve' an assignment**
- Using AI to **write, modify, or extend** reflections, code, comments, etc.

# “Homework” for Next Time

First assignment will be released Friday, but there are some things to do in the meantime.

TODOs this week:

- Fill out the [introductory survey](#) (this is Thursday’s section exit ticket)
- Go meet your TA and classmates in Thursday’s quiz section
- Complete the pre-class material for Friday (see website/calendar)
- Check over [syllabus details on website](#)