



Lecture 1:

Welcome to CS106L!

CS106L, Spring 2025

Today's Agenda

- Introductions!
- The Pitch  
- Course Logistics

Introductions



Now you can meet (some of) each other!

- Turn to the people next to you and introduce yourselves!
- **Potential Conversation Topics:**
 - What's something you're into and not into?
 - Why do you want to take this class?

The Pitch 🦈 🦈

Why C++?

“The invisible foundation of everything”

Valorant



[source]

CS: GO 2



[source]
ke Out
my

...and many more!



High Frequency Trading

Optiver 



CITADEL | Securities



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Self Driving



TESLA



WAYMO

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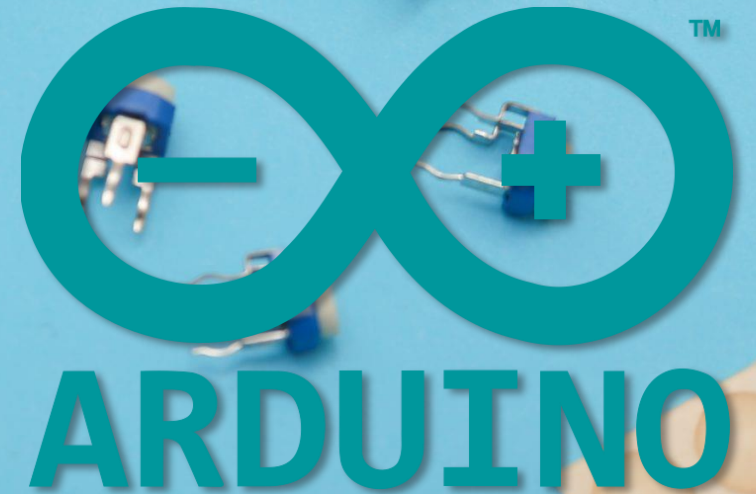
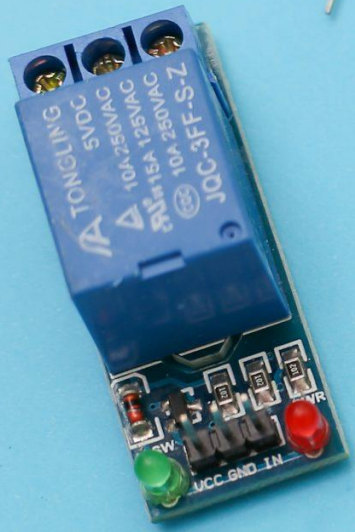
GPU Programming



NVIDIA®

CUDA®

Arduino



[source]

And much, much more!

- Databases (MySQL, MongoDB)
- Web Browsers (Chrome, Safari, Edge)
- Virtual Reality (Quest)
- Low level ML (PyTorch, TensorFlow)
- Compilers, virtual machines (JVM, LLVM, GCC)
- Operating Systems (Windows)

“The invisible foundation of everything”

C++ is great for...

- Handling lots of data
- And handling it very efficiently
- And doing it in an elegant, readable way

C++ in Industry

amazon.com[®]






 Meta

 OpenAI



Google

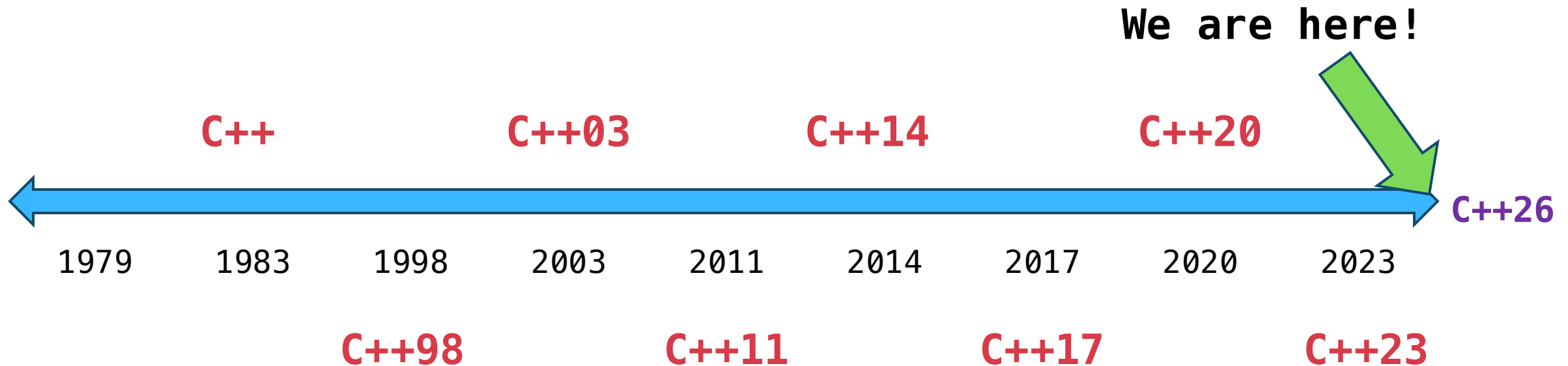
C++ was created in 1983, still #2!

| Mar 2025 | Programming Language | | Ratings | Change |
|----------|---|--------|---------|--------|
| 1 |  | Python | 23.85% | +8.22% |
| 2 |  | C++ | 11.08% | +0.37% |
| 3 |  | Java | 10.36% | +1.41% |
| 4 |  | C | 9.53% | -1.64% |
| 5 |  | C# | 4.87% | -2.67% |

[TIOBE Index, March 2025]

The C++ Community

- C++ has a **MASSIVE** user base
- C++ Standard continues to be revised every three years



What is C++?

A valid C++ program

```
#include <iostream>
#include <string>

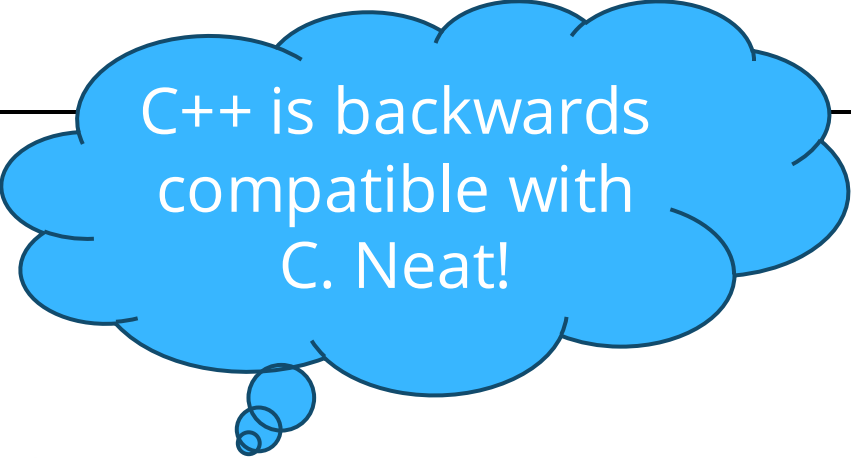
int main() {
    auto str = std::make_unique<std::string>("Hello World!");
    std::cout << *str << std::endl;
    return 0;
}

// Prints "Hello World!"
```

Also a valid C++ program

```
#include "stdio.h"
#include "stdlib.h"

int main(int argc, char *argv) {
    printf("%s", "Hello, world!\n");
    // ^a C function!
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```



C++ is backwards
compatible with
C. Neat!

Also a valid C++ program

```
#include "stdio.h"
#include "stdlib.h"

int main(int argc, char *argv) {
    asm(".LC0:\n\t"
        ".string \"Hello, world!\"\n\t"
        "main:\n\t"
        "push rbp\n\t"
        "mov rbp, rsp\n\t"
        "sub rsp, 16\n\t"
        "mov DWORD PTR [rbp-4], edi\n\t"
        "mov QWORD PTR [rbp-16], rsi\n\t"
        "mov edi, OFFSET FLAT:.LC0\n\t"
        "call puts\n\t");
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```






C++ History: Assembly

```
section .text
global _start
_start:
    mov edx, len
    mov ecx, msg
    mov ebx, 1
    mov eax, 4
    int 0x80
    mov eax, 1
    int 0x80
section .data
    msg db 'Hello, world!' ,0xa
    len equ $ - msg
```




;must be declared for linker (ld)
;tell linker entry point
;message length
;message to write
;file descriptor (stdout)
;system call number (sys_write)
;call kernel
;system call number (sys_exit)
;call kernel
;our dear string
;length of our dear string




C++ History: Assembly

-  Unbelievably **simple** instructions
-  Extremely **fast** (when well-written)
-  Complete **control** over your program

Why don't we always use assembly?

C++ History: Assembly

-  Unbelievably **simple** instructions
-  Extremely **fast** (when well-written)
-  Complete **control** over your program

-  A **lot of code** (even for simple tasks)
-  Very **hard to understand**
-  Extremely **unportable**

C++ History: Invention of C

- Dennis Ritchie created C in 1972 to much praise.
- C made it easy to write code that was:
 - Fast
 - Simple
 - Cross platform
 - **Compilers!** Source Code → Assembly
- Learn to love it in **CS107!**



Dennis Ritchie (left), alongside Ken Thompson (right)

C++ History: Invention of C

- C was popular because it was simple
 - *“When I read C I know what the output Assembly is going to look like”*
—Linus Torvalds, creator of Linux
- However, C has some weaknesses:
 - No **objects** or classes
 - Difficult to write **generic or templated** code
 - **Tedious** to write large programs

C++ History: Welcome to C++!

- In 1983, the beginnings of C++ were created by Danish computer scientist Bjarne Stroustrup
- He wanted a language that was
 - Fast
 - Simple to use
 - Cross-platform
 - **Had high level features**



Bjarne Stroustrup, the man himself ☺

C++ Design Philosophy

- Express ideas and intent directly in code.
- Enforce safety at compile time whenever possible.
- Do not waste time or space.
- Compartmentalize messy constructs.
- Allow the programmer full control, responsibility, and choice.

"Code should be elegant **and** efficient; I hate to have
to choose between those"

—Bjarne Stroustrup

C++ Design Philosophy (Summarized)

- Readable
- Safety
- Efficiency
- Abstraction
- Programmer Choice

A valid C++ program

```
#include "stdio.h"
#include "stdlib.h"

int main(int argc, char *argv) {
    asm(".LC0:\n\t"
        ".string \"Hello, world!\"\n\t"
        "main:\n\t"
        "push rbp\n\t"
        "mov rbp, rsp\n\t"
        "sub rsp, 16\n\t"
        "mov DWORD PTR [rbp-4], edi\n\t"
        "mov QWORD PTR [rbp-16], rsi\n\t"
        "mov edi, OFFSET FLAT:.LC0\n\t"
        "call puts\n\t");
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

A valid C++ program

```
#include "stdio.h"
#include "stdlib.h"

int main(int argc, char *argv) {
    printf("%s", "Hello, world!\n");
    // ^a C function!
    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

A valid C++ program

```
#include <memory>
#include <string>

int main() {
    auto str = std::make_unique<std::string>("Hello World!");
    std::cout << *str << std::endl;
    return 0;
}
```

// Prints "Hello World!"

```
graph TD
    A["std::make_unique<std::string>"] --> B[Smart Pointers]
    A --> C[Templates!]
    D["std::cout"] --> E[Streams]
    F["<<"] --> G[Operator Overloading]
```

Topics We'll Cover

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Welcome | Types & Structs |
| Initialization & References | Streams |
| Containers | Iterators & Pointers |
| Classes | Advanced Classes |
| Templates | Advanced Templates |
| Functions & Lambdas | Operator Overloading |
| Special Member Functions | Move Semantics |
| std::optional and Type Safety | RAII, Smart Pointers, C++ Projects |

Why take CS106L?

Other Classes (e.g. CS106B)

vs.

CS106L

- Focus on **concepts** like abstractions, recursion, pointers etc.
- **Bare minimum** C++ in order to use these concepts
- **Heavy** time commitment

- Focus is on **code**: what makes it good, what powerful and elegant code looks like
- The real deal: No Stanford libraries, only STL: understand **how** and **why** C++ was made
- Relaxed **1 unit** class!

You will probably use C++...

- In one of Stanford's classes
 - **CS 111:** Operating Systems Principles
 - **CME 213:** Introduction to parallel computing using MPI, openMP, and CUDA
 - **CS 143:** Compilers
 - **CS 144:** Introduction to Computer Networking
 - **CS 248A:** Computer Graphics: Rendering, Geometry, and Image Manipulation
 - **MUSIC 256A:** Music, Computing, Design: The Art of Design
 - ...and more!
- And in real life!



“Nobody should call themselves a professional if they only know one language” —Bjarne Stroustrup

C++ helps develop good coding hygiene

- Am I using objects the way they're meant to be used?
 - Type checking, type safety
- Am I using memory efficiently?
 - Reference/copy semantics, move semantics
- Am I modifying something I'm not supposed to?
 - `const` and const correctness
- Other languages relax these restrictions

Magnus vs. Me



What questions do you have?

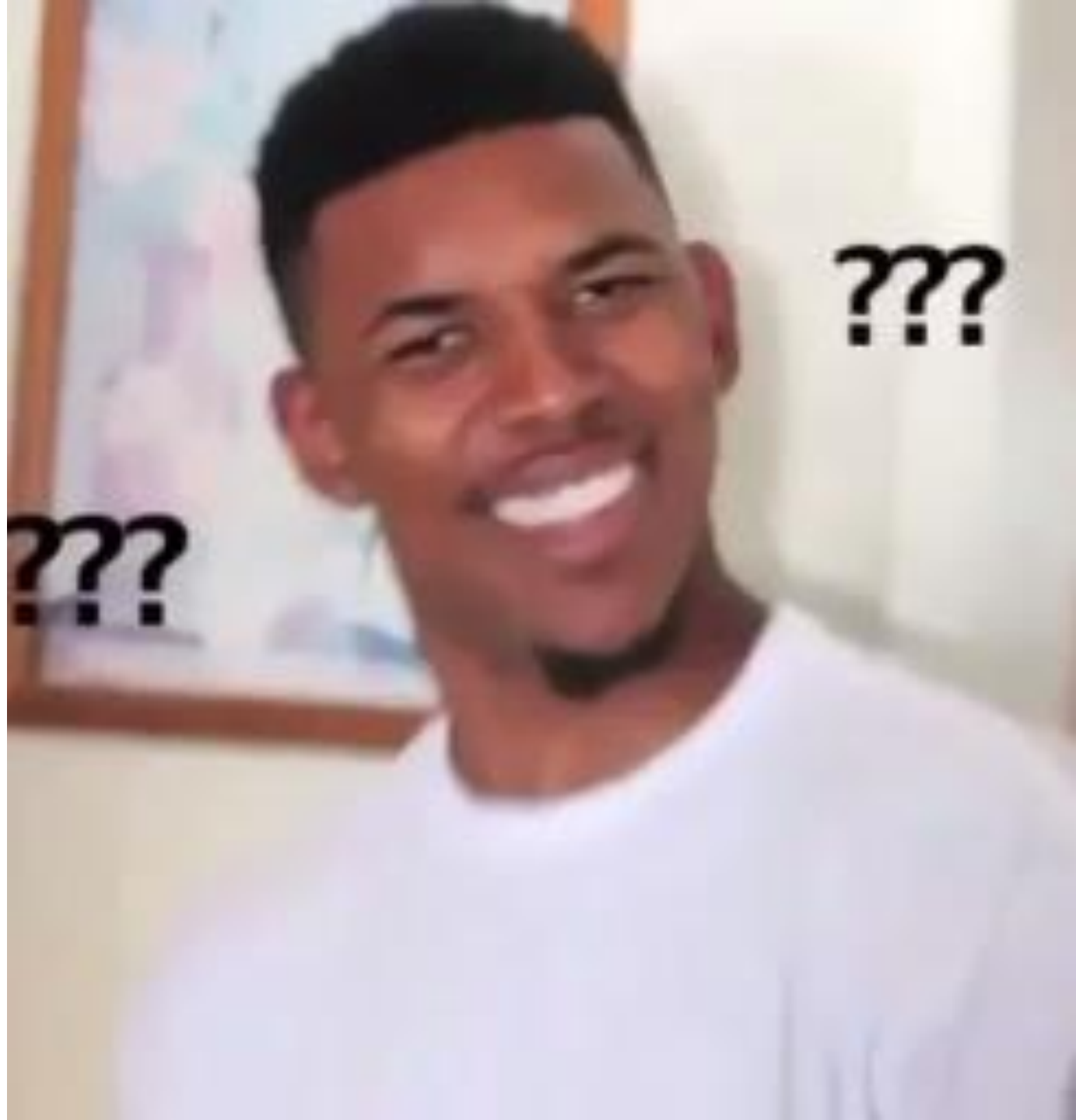


bjarne_about_to_raise_hand

Course Logistics

Asking Questions

- We welcome questions!
- Feel free to raise your hand at **any time** with a question
- We'll also pause periodically to solicit questions and check understanding



Access and Accommodations

- Disabled students are a valued and essential part of the Stanford community. We welcome you to our class!
- Please work with OAE but also let us know if there's anything we can do to make the course more accessible to you.
- Don't be shy about asking for accommodations if problems arise. We're very reasonable people and will do whatever we can to help.

Community Norms

- Shame-free zone
- Treat your peers and instructors with kindness and respect
- Be curious
- Communication is key!
- Recognized we are all in-process (humility, question posing, avoid perfectionism)

Guiding Principles

- We will do everything we can to support you. We want to provide flexibility to the best of our ability!
- We want to hear your feedback so we can ensure the class is going as smoothly as possible for everyone
- Please communicate with us if any personal circumstances or issues arise! We are here to support you :)

What questions do you have?



bjarne_about_to_raise_hand

Lecture

- Held **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays** from 3:00pm – 4:20pm in 260-113
- Lecture is not recorded.
- **Attendance is required.** Short participations quizzes (1-2 questions) will be given at the beginning of lecture starting in week 2. **All students are given 2 free absences.**

Illness

- If you are sick, for the wellbeing of yourself and others **please stay home**, take care of yourself, and reach out to us – **we never want** you to feel that you must attend class if you are not feeling well!
- Similarly, if you have an emergency or exceptional circumstance, **please reach out to us** so that we can help!

Office Hours

- OH times are TBD and will be in person
 - These will be settled by week 2 (before the first assignment)
- We want to talk to you! Come talk!
- Extra OH weeks 9 – 10!
- Watch the course website (cs106l.stanford.edu) and [Ed](#) for more info.

CS106L

Standard C++ Programming

Stanford University


Winter 2025


Assignments


Policies


Grades

About CS106L

 **CS106L** is a 1-unit class that explores the modern C++ language in depth. We'll cover some of the most exciting features of C++, including modern patterns (up through C++26) that give it beauty and power.

 Anyone who is taking or has taken CS106B/X (or equivalent) is welcome to enroll. In other words, we welcome anyone that has learned or is learning programming fundamentals like functions and objects/classes.





 CS106L is a class for **1 unit**. Students will complete 8 *very short* weekly assignments. These are not meant to be too challenging but instead function as some hands-on practice with a few of the concepts we discuss in class the previous week. There are ***no exams or papers***. All grades are S/NC. Class will finish in week 8 to give you time for finals.

 CS106L is built for you! Even if you're not taking the class, you're welcome to come to our in-person office hours (**starting week 2**). *Times TBD*






Schedule

| Week | Tuesday | Thursday |
|------|--|---|
| 1 | January 7 1. Welcome! | January 9 2. Types and Structs |
| 2 | January 14 3. Initialization and References | January 16 4. Streams |
| 3 | January 21 5. Containers | January 23 6. Iterators and Pointers |
| 4 | January 28 7. Classes | January 30 8. Template Classes and Const Correctness |
| 5 | February 4 9. Template Functions | February 6 10. Functions and Lambdas |
| 6 | February 11 11. Operator Overloading | February 13 12. Special Member Functions |
| | | |

Course Info

-  Jacob Roberts-Baca
-  Fabio Ibanez
-  cs106l-win2425-staff@lists.stanford.edu
-  TTh 3:00 - 4:20pm, [Turing Aud](#)

Quick Links

-  [See My Grades](#)
-  [Discussion Forum](#)
-  [Paperless \(Submit Code\)](#)
-  [C++ Documentation](#)
-  [Python to C++ Guide](#)

Assignments

- There will be 8 short weekly assignments (typically will take 1 hour at most depending on experience)
 - Submissions will be on paperless as directed on the assignment handout!
- Assignments will be released on Fridays and due in one week (the following Friday)
 - All students have three free late days.

Grading

- Grading is S/NC. We expect everyone to get an S!
- How do you get an S?
 - Attend **13 of the 15** lectures between Week 2 and Week 9
 - Successful completion of **6 out of 8** weekly assignments

Get in touch with us!

- Here are the best ways to communicate with us!
- Email us: cs106l-spr2425-staff@lists.stanford.edu
 - Please use this email and not our individual emails so we both receive the message!
- Public or private post on Ed
- After class or in our office hours

What questions do you have?



bjarne_about_to_raise_hand