

Discussion 00

Getting Started

Aditya Balasubramanian

aditbala [at] berkeley [dot] edu



Announcements

Agenda

- About Me
- Icebreaker
- Logistics
- Lost on the Moon
- About 61A
- Advice/Resources
- Survey
- Q & A

About Me

- Grade: Sophomore
- # Teaching Sem: 1
- Major: Computer Science & Data Science
- Origin: Maryland
- Hobbies:
 - Ping Pong
 - Chess
 - Blogging/Journaling
 - Geoguessr?
 - Closet Weeb



Icebreaker

- **Goal:** Introduce different people in groups of (roughly) four!
- Sample Questions:
 - Name & Pronouns (if you want)
 - Grade & Major
 - Hobbies
- As a group, try to find as many things that everyone in your group has in common (cannot be related to college or classes; I know you're all taking 61a at Berkeley :))

Logistics - Discussions

- Tu/Th 1:00-2:30PM @ Soda 306
- Structure
 - Review Material
 - Practice Problems Together (range in difficulty)
 - Will not get through all the practice problems
- Worksheets can be found at cs61a.org
- Attendance
 - Recorded with Google Form
 - Must **attend** at least 8 Discussions (Disc 00 does not count)

Logistics - Labs

- M/W 9:30-11:00 AM @ Soda 330
- Coding time  !
- Structure
 - Mini Lecture?
 - Work on Lab
 - Learn with classmates + help from me (and maybe others)
- Attendance
 - Must **attend** at least 8 labs (Lab 0 does not count)

Logistics - Course

- Homework (8)
 - Released on **Monday**, Due **Thursday**
 - Scored on correctness (partial credit awarded)
 - Lowest score dropped
- Lab (12)
 - Released **Mon/Wed**, Due **following day**
 - Scored on completion
- Projects (4)
 - Released throughout course
 - Can work with partner

Lost On the Moon



Lost On the Moon

Your spaceship has just crashed on the moon. You were scheduled to rendezvous with a mother ship 200 miles away on the lighted surface of the moon, but the rough landing has ruined your ship and destroyed all the equipment on board except for the 15 items listed below. Your crew's survival depends on reaching the mother ship, so you must choose the most critical items available for the 200-mile trip.

Your task is to rank the 15 items in terms of their importance for survival. Place a number 1 by the most important item, number 2 by the second most important, and so on, through number 15, the least important.

- 5 min by yourself
- 10 min in groups of 4

NASA Rankings

Ranking	Item	Ranking	Item
1	Oxygen	9	Self-inflating Life raft
2	Water	10	Signal Flares
3	Stellar Map	11	Pistols
4	Food Concentrate	12	Dehydrated Milk
5	FM Receiver/Transmitter	13	Heating Unit
6	Nylon Rope	14	Magnetic Compass
7	First-aid Kit	15	Matches
8	Parachute Silk		

About 61A

- Introductory CS class at Berkeley (not really)
 - Very hard for no programming experience
 - Consider taking Data 8/CS 10
- Course Staff
 - **Instructors/Professors** - Lectures, Exams, OH
 - **TA's** (aka GSI's, uGSI's) - Sections, course logistics, OH
 - **Tutors** - Extra tutoring sessions, OH
 - **Academic Interns** - Lab assistants
- Python + Scheme + SQL
- Concepts > Coding

Advice

- Marathon, not a Sprint
 - Start early on all assignments
 - Set up a schedule you can follow
 - Burnout is very real and possible
- Resources
 - Office Hours
 - Discussion
 - Tutor Sections
 - Past Exams & Video Walkthroughs

Advice

- You are not in this alone!
 - I know what's it like to struggle in this class am here for you guys

 - Email me for any 61a course related advice or anything in between - I'll try to respond within 24 hours, or send a follow-up if I don't.
 - Feel free to ask me for any tips related to CS, courses, teaching, apartment searching, clubs, or anything else (can't guarantee quality lol)

Mental Health Resources

- Counseling and Psychological Services
 - For consultation about students of concern and for help connecting students to counseling or other resources
 - 510-642-9494
- After-Hours Assistance Line
 - For consultation with a counselor after CPS business hours and as a crisis resource for students after business hours
 - (855) 817-5667

Any Questions?

**Intro Survey (Needed to record
Attendance)**

<https://tinyurl.com/adit-welcome> - won't be as long in future 

Anonymous Feedback

<https://tinyurl.com/adit-anon> - Anything you want to see from me?

For questions/concerns: aditbala [at] berkeley [dot]

edu

Slides by Aditya Balasubramanian