

Computer Science I – Fall 2025 (CPS 210)

Time and location

Lecture: MR 8:00 AM - 9:15 AM
SH 181

Lab: See your section details for time/location

Prerequisites

Math Placement Level 4 or MAT152 Minimum Grade of C-

Credit hours

4

Instructor

Katherine Brainard

Preferred Name: Katherine or Professor Brainard (either is fine, use the one you're more comfortable with)

Pronouns: They/Them or She/Her (either is fine, use the one you're more comfortable with)

Email: brainark@newpaltz.edu

Office: SH 247

Drop-in Office Hours: M/R 9:30 - 10:30, T 1pm - 2pm

By Appointment Office Hours: T 2pm - 3pm

Course description

This course is an introduction to programming, taught using the Java programming language. It will cover basic concepts such as variables, loops, control structures, methods, and classes.

Student Learning Objectives

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to design, write, run, and debug small programs in Java to solve simple computational tasks. Additionally, students will have the background needed to quickly adapt to new programming languages and environments.

Critical Thinking and Reasoning SLO's

Students will:

- clearly articulate an issue or problem;
- identify, analyze, and evaluate ideas, data, and arguments as they occur in their own or others' work;
- acknowledge limitations such as perspective and bias; and
- develop well-reasoned (logical) arguments to form judgments and/or draw conclusions.

Information Literacy SLO's

Students will:

- locate information effectively using tools appropriate to their need and discipline;
- evaluate information with an awareness of authority, validity, and bias; and
- demonstrate an understanding of the ethical dimensions of information use, creation, and dissemination.

Text Book

Required TextBook: None.

Useful Supplemental Texts:

Effective Java, Joshua Bloch, 3rd Edition
ISBN: 978-0134685991

Other Resources

I will make relevant resources available to you at the Brightspace course site. All course material, including Course Calendar, Syllabus, assignments, and tests will be posted on or linked from Brightspace.

Teaching Assistants

For this course, we have two Teaching Assistants who will be running the lab sections of the class, Madeleine Callan and Catherine Chowdhury. They will provide feedback on your computer programs, assist with questions about the assignments and course material, proctor lab quizzes, and will have access to all course material posted on Brightspace.

Weekly Assignments

Weekly assignments will be posted on the course web site; while primarily done outside of class, there will be time in lab each week to work on them and ask questions of the TA. The three lowest lab grades will be dropped at the end of the semester; as a result, no late work or make-up assignments are available. These assignments are to be completed individually, and build on the topics covered each week.

Quizzes

Every week (except for the first two weeks) there will be a quiz at the beginning of lab reviewing material from the preceding weeks. These quizzes must be completed during lab; they may not be submitted late, and there are no make-up options, but the lowest 2 quiz grades will be dropped at the end of the semester

Optional Final Exam

There is no required final exam for this course; at the end of the semester, students may choose to take a final exam at the time specified by the university's final exam schedule.

If a student earns a higher grade on the final, it can be used to replace two quiz grades (if a student earns a lower grade on the final, they can keep all their original quiz grades - there's no risk to taking the final).

In-Class Participation

Students are expected to be present and engaged with the course, which requires being prepared for class by having done the readings. Participation grades are determined by a short reading quiz at the beginning of each class. There are no make-up options, but the lowest 8 participation grades are dropped at the end of the semester.

Grade Breakdown

5% Participation (evenly distributed, with lowest 8 dropped)

20% Weekly Assignments (evenly distributed, with lowest 3 assignment grades dropped)

75% Lab Quizzes (evenly distributed, with lowest 2 quiz grades dropped)

Grading

Final letter grades will be based on your total percentage score, according to the scale:

A 100 – 93	A- 92.9 – 90
B+ 89.9 – 87.5	B 87.4 – 82.6
B- 82.5 – 80	C+ 79.9 – 77.5
C 77.4 – 72.6	C- 72.5 – 70
D+ 69.9 – 67.5	D 67.4 – 62.6
D- 62.5 – 60	F Below 60

Summary of Topics Covered and Course Schedule

Subject to change

Week 1 - Introduction to programming environments, loops, and conditionals

Week 2 - Methods

Week 3 - Variables

Week 4 - For loops, random numbers

Week 5 - Classes and methods

Week 6 - String manipulation

Week 7 - File Reading

Week 8 - Arrays

Week 9 - Enumerations

Week 10 - Exceptions

Week 11 - Maps

Week 12 - File Writing

Week 13 - JUnit testing

Week 14 - Advanced topics: git, Swing

On plagiarism (or cheating)

All work in the class will have to be done individually, except when collaborative work is explicitly assigned. While you may be allowed to check references online, sharing of code or other work in any form will be considered plagiarism. Copying and pasting work of any kind from other students or web resources is also considered plagiarism. You may be given a zero for the whole test/assignment if plagiarism is detected in even a single question.

ChatGPT/LLM Usage

No LLMs (including Github Copilot) may be used for any coursework in this class. While more advanced classes in the department will cover non-stochastic code generation tools and techniques, they are not appropriate for this course, and will be treated as an academic integrity violation.

Attendance/Late arrival

Attendance in lecture is generally expected, as reflected in participation grades. If you miss a class, you need not inform me, just make it up from the Brightspace notes. You are, however, responsible for all that goes on in the classroom, present or not (which includes things that are missed if you arrive late).

Please see the following for additional campus-wide policies on attendance.

[Religious Beliefs & Class Attendance](#)

[Black Solidarity Day](#)

Attendance in lab is de facto required, as lab quizzes must be completed and submitted during lab.

Note that both lecture and lab have graded work that happens **only** at the beginning of the session - this work cannot be made up (nor is extended time available) if a student arrives late and misses some or all of the work.

Important Dates:

- Last day to withdraw from the course without getting a W in transcripts: Sept 7, 2025
- Course Withdrawal Date (last day to withdraw from the course without getting a failing grade): Nov 14, 2025
- For other important dates, see the Academic Calendar:

<https://webapps.newpaltz.edu/calendars/academic/202509/1>

Course Etiquette

Knowing the social norms of an environment is important to avoid accidentally using up “social capital”. For this course, the expectation is that you’ll behave in a professional/workplace-appropriate manner - specifically, some common expectations:

- Emails should largely use correct spelling and grammar; while no one's going to nitpick the occasional split infinitive, 'hey when r u goin 2 post the assign' would not be an acceptable email.
- Emails should be **succinct** - the amount of formality expected in emails can vary from professor to professor (and workplace to workplace), but as a general rule: minimize and visually separate with whitespace any salutations/formulaic phrases (ex: 'Dear Esteemed Colleague, I hope this email finds you well'), and avoid excess verbiage in the main body of the email. Some text editing tools (*cough* ChatGPT *cough*) have a very flowery default writing style - they require **heavy** editing to produce emails that are appropriately concise. For this course, feel free to omit salutations entirely, but do include your name at the end of the email
- Emails are **asynchronous** - feel free to send an email at any time! Be aware that responses may take up to 24 hours, though (often less, but keep this timeframe in mind for deadlines). If you haven't received a reply in 48 hours, please reach out again, as the original email may have gotten lost
- Start with an assumption of only business hour availability (M-F 8-6) if you need to schedule an in-person meeting; late evening or weekend meetings are not available
- When in doubt, **ask** - while "professional conduct" isn't an explicit course learning objective, college is a great time to practice/acclimate to those expectations to avoid any on-the-job faux pas. A polite question about whether something is appropriate is always ok

Campus Policies

Please be aware of the most [current Campus Policies](#) applicable to issues such as Academic Integrity, Computer/Network Use, Identity Verification, Accommodation of Individuals with Disabilities, Title IX, and Veteran & Military Services.

SEI

Towards the end of the course you will get a chance to provide a "Student Evaluation of Instruction". Students are encouraged to complete this; I value your feedback and use it to improve my teaching and planning.

Reasonable accommodation of individuals with disabilities statement

Students needing classroom and/or testing accommodations related to a disability should contact the Disability Resource Center (Student Union, Room 210, 845-257-3020) as close as possible to the beginning of the semester. The DRC will then provide students' instructors with an Accommodation Memo verifying the need for accommodations. Direct specific questions about services and accommodations to Deanna Knapp, Assistant Director (knappd@newpaltz.edu).

Veteran and Military Services statement

The Office of Veteran and Military Services (OVMS) is committed to serving the needs of veterans, service members and their dependents during their transition from military life to student life. Student veterans, service members or their dependents who need

assistance while attending SUNY New Paltz may refer to www.newpaltz.edu/veterans; call 845-257-3120, -3124 or -3074; or stop by the Student Union, Room 100 South.

Computer and network policies statement

Users of SUNY-New Paltz computer resources and network facilities are required to comply with the institutional policies outlined in the Acceptable Uses and Privacy Policy (<https://sites.newpaltz.edu/csc/policies/acceptable-uses-and-privacy-policy/>).

Basic Needs

To learn effectively you must have basic security: a roof over your head, a safe place to sleep, enough food to eat. The Division of Student Affairs has compiled a broad range of resources, including a list of campus services, local agencies, and support networks, that can assist students with managing their basic needs. Please consult these resources or contact the Division of Student Affairs should you need additional information.

Names & Pronouns

SUNY New Paltz recognizes the importance of a diverse student body, and we are committed to fostering equitable classroom environments. You are invited to share how you want to be referred to, both in terms of your name and your pronouns (he/him, she/her, they/them, etc.). I will do my best to address and refer to all students accordingly and will support you in doing so as well. In this classroom, we will respect and refer to people using the names and personal pronouns that they share.

Taking Care: Illness and Absences

While the national COVID-19 public health emergency has ended, SUNY New Paltz still has policies in place to protect the health of our community. [Click here to view COVID-19 FAQs and up-to-date information about those policies.](#)

Students with an illness that prevents them from attending class (COVID-19, influenza, etc.) should exercise self-care and consult the testing recommendations on the [Student Health Service \(SHS\) website](#). Faculty will receive “professor notes” from the SHS when a student has an illness that prevents them from attending class.