

What advice would you give to future students in this class?

I'm one for higher meanings. While this class is chalk-full of specifics, there are life lessons in it too. You just have to pay attention. Someone once said that OOP is a lot like boot camp, and that sentiment has stuck with me since. It will break you down. It will flood you with work. It will give you little feedback. And if you let it, it will consume you.

Not everybody is consumed. And don't get me wrong, being consumed is not a bad thing. We all get consumed, one way or another. By TV shows, by possessions, by other people. But at the end of the day, there are four types of people.

- A. Those who don't get consumed, because they do not see it as an option.
- B. Those who choose not to be consumed, because they decide it isn't worth it.
- C. Those who choose to be consumed, because they find it worth it.
- D. And those who get consumed, because they don't see an alternative.

In OOP, you will meet all four sets of people. If there is one piece of advice I have to offer to you, it's that you don't want to be persons A or D. After all:

*Awareness is everything. Awareness is everything. Awareness is everything.*

Say these words in your head until they lose their meanings. And then keep saying them until they regain those meanings ten-fold. Be vulnerable to the class. Let it consume you, even just for a week, even just for a day. That's what it takes. That's what being great at *anything* takes. It takes being consumed. Just remember, it's not difficult to be consumed, and you don't want to be consumed too easily. That's how you get hurt. That's how you lose parts of yourself, and it's how you lose who you are. And it's way too easy to do that while having a career in computer science.

In iterations 1 and 2, I started in group A. But there was a team member who was part of group D. And it was a burst of fresh air for me. I was going through a period of apathy in school work, and I found his outlook inspiring. So I became part of group D, just in time for iteration three. I found personal fulfillment in Git commits. I took blows to the project as if they were blows to me as a person. And I spoke and thought about the project whenever I wasn't in a team meeting.

I'm sure it got on the nerves of my friends, but that hardly mattered. They weren't involved in the project. They didn't understand. They weren't important.

From a coding perspective, the class isn't fundamental. Object-oriented programming is just one programming philosophy. And its dominance might be ending soon. Procedural programming is looking very promising, after all. But, future student, take the class. Take the class and pause everything else in your life. And then afterwards ask yourself if this is what you want, in your professional life. You might get it. You might get to be a Google employee. *Don't be evil, but do think about your job*

24/7. Or you might decide against it. Shirk your technology and your white-collar job and join the Peace Corps.

Your life is yours, but you can only pick the most appropriate route if you've given everything else a shot. I wish you way more than luck.