Elena Corpus

1. **What do you think would be the ideal FIRST language for CS160 (it doesn't have to be a language currently taught at UND)? Why do you think this language is the best choice? Keep in mind that the best choice for CS160 is not necessarily the best choice for CS161, or any other class. Are there features about your choice that you do not like?**

I do believe that Python has been the best option for a beginning language because the syntax and structure has made it much easier to pick up and understand when you have not had any experience when any other languages. Having had no experience really in CSCI or with any languages of that sort other than the simple games you could play on the computer, Python made an easy transition into this and making this fun to learn.

2. **What is the biggest obstacle(s) to success in CS130/CS160? It doesn't matter if you took the class at a different school; the problems in a CS1 are generally consistent across all universities. This answer doesn't necessarily have to include the programming language. Any and all obstacles to learning are equally distracting, language or otherwise.**

The biggest obstacle I believe could potentially be the TA that is helping with the labs because that was the place and time one sits dow and understands the language and really puts it to use. I do remember there was a TA that did not really help with teaching but more of just showed us how the program was supposed to look and allowed us to type along with him, which I believed helped me during that time, however, when I was able to experience time with another TA who really made us create the programs by ourselves is where I learned the most.

3. **CS160 recently switched to using Python. CS161 (CS2) is now taught using Python as well. In previous years it has been taught using Java, and there are discussions about switching back to Java. CS130 can be used as a prereq for CS161, and it uses C. The point of the question is, it's possible to take a path in which 160 and 161 use the same language. Or not. Do you think this is a good idea that we switch languages when moving from CS160 to CS161, or should we use the same language for our first two classes for majors? Please explain your answers. This question is less about Python vs. Java vs. C, it's more about switching languages early vs. using the same language in consecutive classes.**

I did like coming into 160 with Python, however, because the first half of 161 was 160 but on a fast track I did not feel like I learned as much as I could have if it was more of a continuation. I wish that the curriculum began with Python but sort of taught in the way that 161 was, because rather than going over just half the book in 160, it went through all the chapters. Doing this would allow for 161 to be taught in another language which I think would help with the jump between the 100-Levels and the 200-Levels. Having only being able to speak on my experience, I wish that I had been exposed to more languages in the 100-level classes which would have made it easier to teach myself C, Java and C#. Because Python was such an easy language it has made for the transfer to these other ones more difficult. In addition to not being taught C in CS230, it has made for more of a difficult transfer into the 300-level courses because teaching

oneself a language can be difficult especially since we were not set up and shown even just the basic principles of the language.

4. **Do you have a favorite programming language? If so, what language is it and why is it your favorite? If you do not have a favorite, can you offer any suggestions why not? If you have two favorites (is that possible?), what languages are they and how do you choose which language to use at any given time?**

So far my favorite language to use has been C# because I was able to teach myself about it while building a fun User Interface. Also being able to use it in Visual Studios made it easier to learn because many times it was able to help finish what you were wanting to say and since I was just learning the language it was able to show me the outline of what was supposed to go where and why.