Fall 14
Computer Science Self-Pace Rules

Info about CS9 series and CS47B

Everyone has to read this entire document. We kept it short. It contains important information that you are responsible for knowing for your Self-Paced Course. There is a corresponding "Orientation quiz" you need to bring to the Self-Pace Center to trade for your computer account that verifies you read this document.

These courses are "Self-Paced" but they are still serious UC courses, with a high difficulty level and pre-requisites. We know you will have a positive experience learning the languages and enriching your skill sets, but please note that these courses can take up a lot of your time! Please don't think of them as an easy 2 unit course. In order to have a positive experience and learn the material you need to get started in your course and continue with it regularly. Putting all the work off until the end can have a negative effect on your other classes and your ability to pass your course.

Our web site:

-inst.eecs.berkeley.edu/~selfpace

There you will find all your course information including your course study guides with all your assignments, as well your guides to materials. Look for the index of classes. Also many course textbooks are online there and found in guides to materials. There is also information about how to use your computer account that you will be issued. There is a document called "Before you Begin" that has basic account use info (it's a little dated but overall helpful). We also post announcements regularly so important to check the web page for any important information.

Getting started and set up for your course!

1. **Read this document**
2. **Do the short orientation quiz** (you will trade it for your computer account)
3. *Go to the web site, find your course assignments, required texts*
4. *At some point during the first 3 weeks of school, come to the Self-Pace Center to get your computer account and take the entrance quiz to determine you are prepared and have the pre-requisites to take your course* (please note no rush to come to the center, pacing points won't start until week 4, but be aware of department course drop deadline dates if you are not sure if you are going to take the course)

We are devoting the first two weeks to getting students started, so we will NOT be accepting assignments other than the orientation quiz (and entrance quiz taking), until Sept 8th . Pacing points won't start until week 4th week -Sept 15th anyways (more about pacing later in this document). We want to make sure everyone is getting off to a good start. So no mad rush to come to the center, take your time and get on a good footing.

The Self-Pace Center

Our center is located in 200A Sutardja Dai Hall. (Door is next to the nice orange couches in Qualcomm Café-the door deceptively says "No Exit" on it) We will open to students on Tuesday Sept 2nd. Enter only through that orange door (not through the Apple lab next door)

Hours

Our hours are: Monday-Thurs 11-5, Fri 12-4. There may be some slight changes in schedule from time to time, that we will post on our web site and/or send you a message. But in general that is our regular schedule. Also note, we stop handing out quizzes the last 30 minutes we are open and don't start new tutoring sessions the last 15 minutes we are open, even if you are signed up.

Entrance Quiz: We have an entrance quiz (this is different from the "orientation quiz") every student must take and verify with a tutor they can pass. We aren't trying to be mean, we just want to check if this is the class for you. Not having the pre-requisites and trying to take our courses will set you up for a lot of grief. The current climate as made many students eager to learn programming which is great. But our courses do require pre-requisites. Please note just knowing the basic recursion is not enough to prepare you for our courses.

We will stop taking new student adds early 4th week.

IMPORTANT note about work load of our courses: Our 9 series courses are now 2 units. Please keep this in mind when you consider signing up for more than one class. We don't recommend students with average to heavy course loads take more than one self-pace course at a time. If you are looking to add units there is decal.org for some great two unit courses that are far more manageable for a busy Cal student.

Tutor schedule

Our schedule be up online on our web site 4th week of school, but in the meantime we do have a working but evolving schedule.

Completing the Assignments

In order to gain access to your EECS account (which you will be issued upon your first visit to the Self-Pace Center), you may either (1) go to one of the EECS labs and log in or (2) connect remotely from your own computer. The "Before you Begin" document on our web page is helpful with this.   Or you can use a compiler you download on to your machine. The tutors prefer to see running programs presented to them on your lap tops.

Grading Guidelines: For new students the point breakdown for the SPC courses is as follows:

Assignments and Quizzes 40%

> Pacing Points* 20%

> Final Exam 40%

> Assignments and Quizzes comprises of completion of assignments and quizzes.

> Final Exam points are given based upon the points received from the final exam.

> P/NP: At least 70% to PASS

> Letter Grade for 47B: No curve. 90-100 A, 80-89 B....

New this semester

We will offer some bonus points and pacing point forgiveness to those who finish their courses by the end of pacing period explained below. We will send information about this as the semester progresses.

*Pacing Points

We will be sending you more information about pacing soon. Pacing starts 4_{th} week of school and will run for 9 weeks. This semester we are fronting everyone 2 pacing points to get you started. Two Pacing points can be earned each week by turning in work by that week deadline day. There is no need to panic if you miss a few pacing points but missing many or all of them puts your ability to pass in jeopardy. In other words don't put off all work until the end. Each class will have a deadline each week that will be determined soon (we base it on staffing so need to get our schedule set up) In other words not every classes deadline will be Fridays. We will send out your courses deadlines via a group message around 3rd week of school.

Students finishing incompletes grade guidelines If you are finishing an incomplete DO NOT ADDTHE CLASS AGAIN. Just come into the center after 3_{rd} week, complete any missing work and then you will need to take the final. When you are done with your work-you need to bring us a petition to remove an incomplete grade form that can be found on the registrar web page.

The final grades for students finishing incompletes goes as follows:

Pacing points are not factored in (although we still recommend turning in work regularly, students who wait until the end may have work put on hold)

> 40 points assignments and quizzes + 40 points for final exam = 100% you still need 70% or 56 points to pass.

Assignment check offs:

If you have an assignment ready to get graded, meaning you have all what the check list in the assignment requires, check the tutor schedule on our web site to make sure a tutor is scheduled to be at the center who teaches your class. For certain classes, such as C++ tutors can be limited so you will need to get familiar with tutor schedules and find tutors who teach those classes. It is always best to get to know your tutors so you can find who you work best with and their schedules. Although we are no longer requiring it, we do recommend you have a course notebook or a section of a notebook for all your tutoring sessions. It can be used as a backup for a record you completed an assignment or quiz.

Programs MUST be completed before corresponding quiz can be taken. But you can continue working on programs if you are waiting to retake a quiz, in fact we encourage that. For Assignments, you must have your code and test cases showing correctness ready to be examined for the tutor to grade before the grading session in order to pass. For Quizzes, you must have correct answers on all questions on the quiz in order to pass. In addition, in order to receive a quiz, you MUST have submitted the assignment(s) associate with that quiz first. There is a TWO DAY WAIT for retaking quizzes, so it's of you best interest to only take quizzes when you are prepared. Don't just take a quiz due to fear of losing pacing points as that strategy, as that will back fire on you. How do you know you are ready? If you did the corresponding program and feel confident.

Key Dates

The last day of classes, Fri Dec 5th is the last day we will accept work. Our regular finals will take place Monday December 15th first three exam groups. We usually offer a scheduled early final too, time to be announced.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS:

-Take the courses seriously as you would any class you are taking at UCB

-Plan regular times to work on programs and a regular time to come into the center

-Get to know your tutors and find the ones you work best with

-Keep working on programs even if you are stuck on a quiz. You can work ahead on programs while taking the quizzes-

We are here to help so come in any time to ask questions also. Best wishes on your course!