

# CS 240

## Introduction to Data Structures and Algorithms

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Spring 2019 - Steven Moore

# Notes

- My Name is Steven Moore
  - My Bio
- Who has experience with C++?
  - No experience with C++ necessary for this course
  - This is not just a C++ language course
  - Must have taken CS140 - Object Oriented Programming

# Course Tools - Piazza

- Piazza
  - communication
  - lab assignments
  - Reading, lecture notes, and materials
  - course schedule and info
  - policies

# Reading and Lecture Materials

- Lecture Notes for each topic will be posted to the resources tab on piazza.
  - Lecture notes are not considered final until after the topic is complete.
- Reading and other materials will also be posted in the syllabus, which will be updated frequently
  - Make sure you are reviewing this often. Because we are using a free textbook, there will be some gaps in the reading that I will fill with supplemental materials.

# Course Tools - Blackboard

- [mycourses.binghamton.edu](https://mycourses.binghamton.edu)
- Blackboard
  - Grades
    - *I try to keep grades updated over the course of the semester , and you can check your current grade for the course at any time on Blackboard.*
      - Because not all your work is in, the weighted grade on blackboard is an estimate only.
    - *Check your grades often. If there is an error, I want to know.*
      - I have over 200 students this semester, I will make a mistake
  - Piazza Link
  - Assignment Hash

# Communication

- Piazza
  - Communication
    - *Public*
      - Receive answers about the course from me, TA's, or other students
    - *Private*
      - Personal Questions
      - If you are posting actual code or an answer, you must post as a private message to me
        - *If you are unsure, post privately, and I can make it public*
- First Assignment:
  - Sign up for Piazza, and respond to the 'Course Policies' Post

# Lecture Format

- Over the course of each topic we will have 1 or more classworks
  - A small in class assignment graded pass/fail
- Classworks are not posted on the website and cannot be made up
  - Classwork makes up a portion of your Professional Accountability grade
    - email submission to [cs240classwork@cs.binghamton.edu](mailto:cs240classwork@cs.binghamton.edu)
  - Classwork submission is in class only
- Review remainder of the policies...

# How to Succeed

- Start labs as soon as they are assigned
  - Do not wait until the last minute
  - Plan for electronic failures and last minute emergencies
- Lab Format
  - This is probably the first class where you are building large programs from the ground up in a short amount of time
- Ask for help in and out of class
  - Admit when you aren't 'getting' it
    - *If you understood all of it, you wouldn't need to be here*
- Comment out what doesn't work so your code compiles.



# My Expectations

- If you need help, you will ask for it
  - We review a lot of topics for this class, and sometimes move quickly.
- If you need me to review or re-explain a concept, you will ask.
  - I cannot know if you are struggling or something wasn't explained well if you don't tell me
- This class is not a race to a finish line.
  - I will review a concept as many times as it takes for you to understand

# Our Class Mantra - Ask Questions

- I am not the only one who has this question
  - No matter how silly you think the question is, someone else is just as confused as you
- Moore loves questions because it makes his job easier
  - I can't read minds very well, so help me by asking questions
- I need to ask more questions
  - Knowing what question to ask is more valuable than the knowledge you get from the answer

# Relax

- Not everyone will get an A in this course
  - That's okay. Grades are not important.
- Learning is important.
  - What you have learned is a lot more important than your grade
    - *Often your grade is not a very good reflection of what you have learned.*
- Keep your perspective.
  - “Is the end result of this going to be a pile of skulls? If the answer is no, then it could be worse and I should get over it.” - Sarah Vowell

# Review Lab 1