CSCI 132:
Basic Data Structures and Algorithms

Syllabus and Logistics

Reese Pearsall
Spring 2025

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- Analyze the complexity and runtime of the algorithms that we write

Reese Pearsall (pierce-all)

Third year Instructor @MSU
B.S & M.S @ MSU

Interests
- Cybersecurity
- Malware analysis and detection
- Cybercrime
- Computer Science Education

Hometown
- Billings, MT

Teaching
- CSCI 132
- CSCI 232 (Networks)
- ESOF 422 (Cybersecurity)

Favorite Breakfast Item
- Breakfast Burrito

Experience
- Software Engineer and Tester, Techlink (Bozeman)
- Software Engineer, United States Air Force (Hill AFB, Utah)
- Cybersecurity Software Engineer, Hoplite Industries (Bozeman)
- Graduate Researcher, MSU (Bozeman)

Outside of academia
- Video games, New England Patriots, Fantasy Football, TikTok (rip), Garfield, Dr Pepper, Memes, *The Bachelor*, Naps
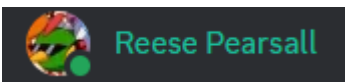

Meatball
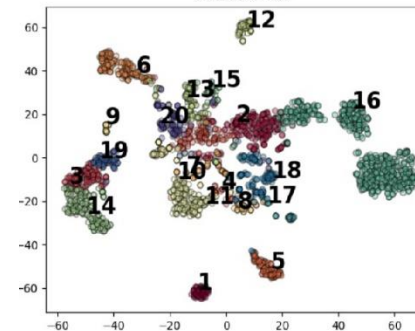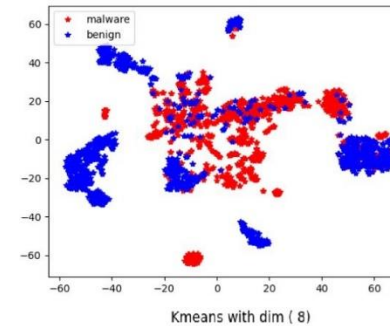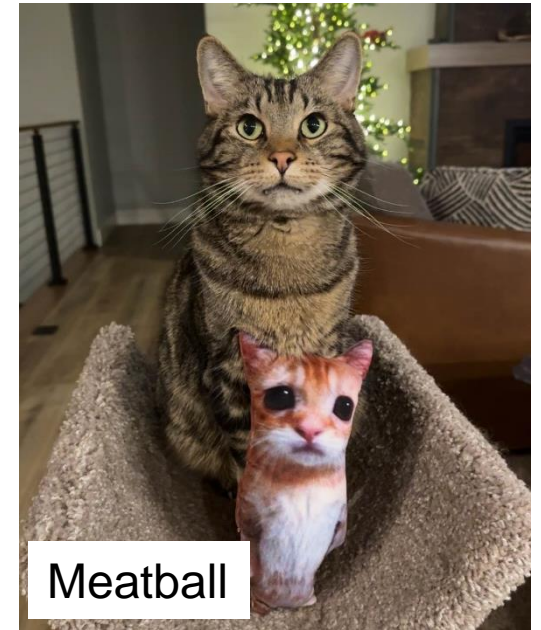
Contact

Email: reese.pearsall@montana.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Office: Barnard Hall 361

Discord: @reese_p

(I am very responsive on Discord–
you can always send me a DM)

Course Logistics (Lecture)

Class Meetings
MWF: 3:10 – 4:00 PM
Norm Asbjornson Hall 165

- All lectures will be recorded and posted on the course website
  (coming to class is still a good idea)

- We will be doing lots of live coding during lecture, so it
  might be helpful if you bring your own laptop to class
  (if you would like to code along)

- Please be respectful and considerate of your classmates siting around you
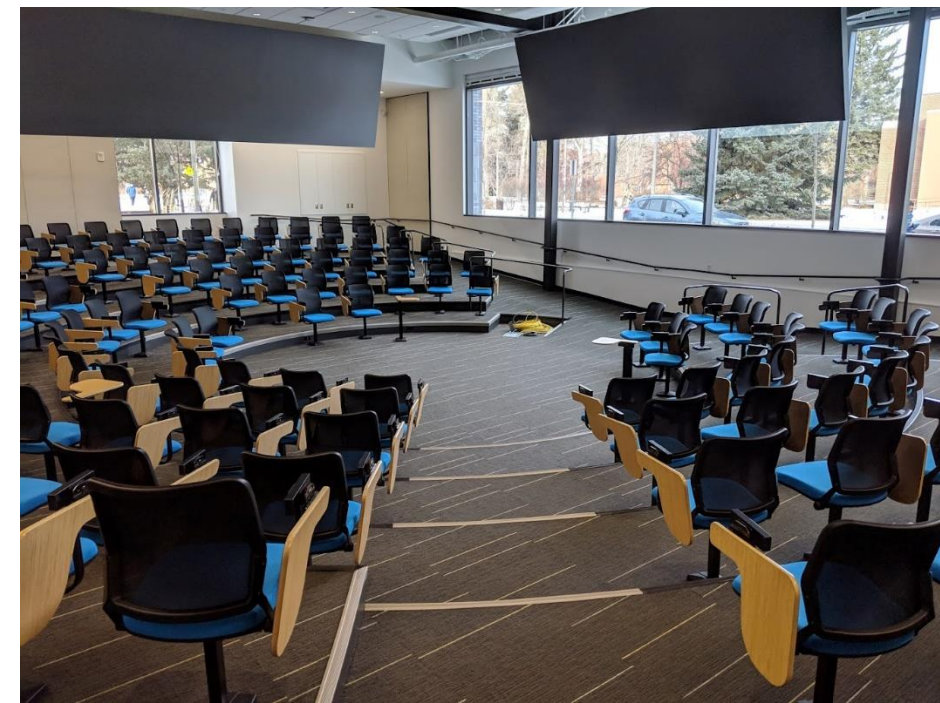
when I go to uni on 2h of sleep and the professor doesnt take attendance

Course Logistics (Lab)

•Section 003- Tuesdays 10:00 - 11:50 AM
•Section 004- Tuesdays 12:00 - 2:00 PM
•Section 005- Tuesdays 2:10 - 4:00 PM
•Section 006- Tuesdays 4:10 - 6:00 PM

Locations: Roberts 111

- You can go to lab and get help from your TA and lab assistants

- Lab attendance is **optional**

- Lab assignments will be posted a few days before Tuesdays and can be completed from home.

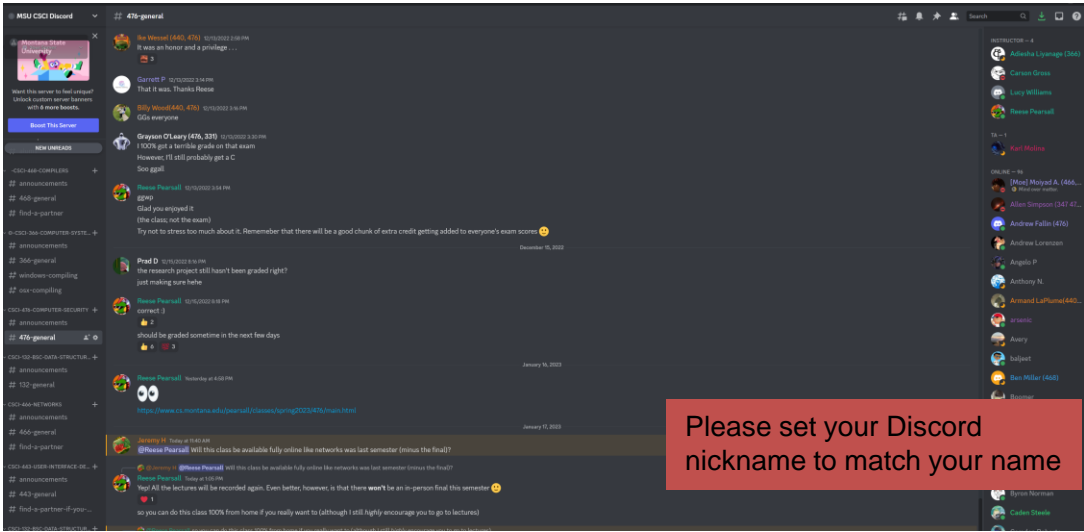- You can attend a different lab section earlier/later in the day if you would like

Course Logistics

You will be visiting this website a lot… be sure to bookmark it!

https://www.cs.montana.edu/pearsall/classes/spring2025/132/main.html

You also will need to join our **Discord** server!

Please set your Discord nickname to match your name

Course Questionnaire

Please take some time this week to fill out the course questionnaire ☺

Prerequisites

- ## CSCI 127- Joy and Beauty of Data
- ## M151Q- Precalculus*

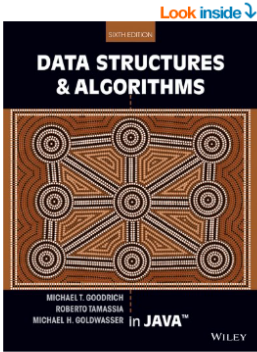*(you will be fine if you have not completed M151Q)

You should feel comfortable with basic programming constructs:
(functions, variables, loops, if statements, lists, etc)

If you failed CSCI 127, you should **not** be here

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Textbook

[Data Structures and Algorithms in Java, 6th Edition by Goodrich, Tamassia, and Goldwasser](#)

It's in the MSU bookstore

@bejewelledbud

Can you guys please recommend books that made you cry?

Frease
@FreaseDaddy

Data Structures and Algorithms in Java (2nd Edition) 2nd Edition
by Robert Lafore (Author)

unfortunately, a very relatable meme

This textbook is **not** required
(but it does have tons of great stuff!!)

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Grading

- 35% - Labs (12 @ ~3% each)
- 45% - Programs (5 @ 9% each)
- 10% - Midterm
- 10% - Final Exam

Grading

Labs (35%)

- Shorter, weekly assignments.

- Can generally be finished within 1-2.5 hours

- Due on Tuesday nights @ 11:59 PM

- You are given starting code

- I will post the labs a few days ahead of time

- You should be able to finish within your 2hr lab time

- I will drop your lowest lab grade at the end of the semester

- Individual submissions

Grading

Programs (45%)

- Longer, more complicated programming assignments

- Will likely take 2+ hours to complete

- You will always have 2-3 weeks to complete them

- Write from scratch (usually no starting code)

- Much higher stakes, make sure you give yourself plenty of time to complete them

- You can get help from your TA during lab time or office hours

- You are allowed to work with 1 partner

Grading

Exams (Midterm and Final) (20%)

Midterm: Wednesday March 5th
Final: Monday May 5th

- In-person

- Exams consist of short answer, multiple choice, true/false, matching

- I *think* both exams will be in the form of a D2L quiz and autograded

Grading

Extra Credit

Rubber Duck Extra Credit (1%)

- I will give you a rubber duck to take care of during the semester (February 7th)

- If you still have the rubber duck by the end of the semester, and if it is still alive, I will give you extra credit

Late assignment policy

- If you submit late, but you are within < 24 of the original deadline, you will face a -25% penalty

- If you submit late, but you are within < 48 of the original deadline, you will face a -50% penalty

Any assignment submitted 48+ hours after the deadline will **not** be accepted
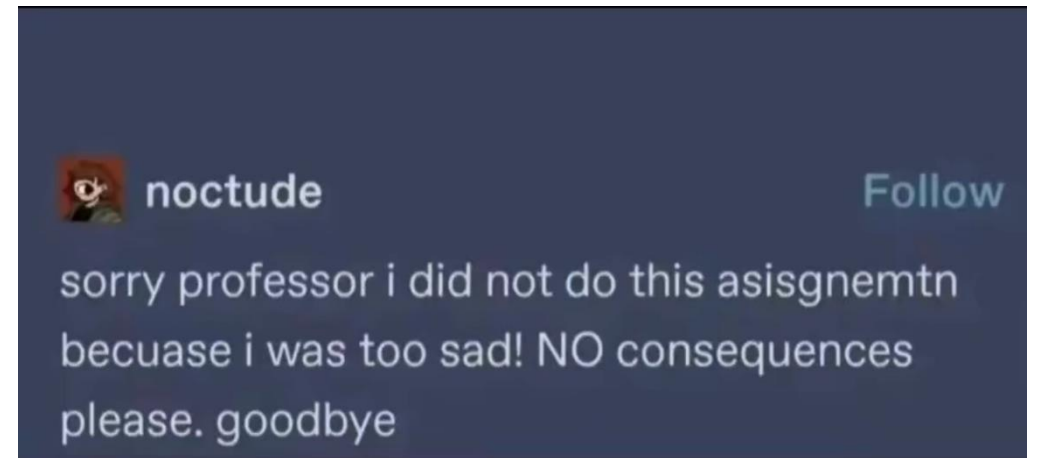
Grading Scale

- 93+: A
- 90+: A-
- 87+: B+
- 83+: B
- 80+: B-
- 77+: C+
- 73+: C
- 70+: C-
- 67+: D+
- 63: D
- 60: D-

At the end of the semester, if you are within 1% of the next letter grade, I will bump you up

I will not curve exams or final grades unless it is needed

juju 💰
@ihyjuju

in college you gotta get over L's real quick because the next one is due at 11:59

IDE

You will need to download an IDE that you can write Java programs in
- Eclipse (I will use this one)
- Netbeans
- IntelliJ

I will post a video walking you through the installation process ☺

Academic Misconduct

Plagiarism and cheating is very not cool

You are **not** allowed to submit something that is not your own, and you are **not** allowed to steal solutions from another person and modify it

I have a Chegg and Course Hero membership. **Don't try it**

Do not use any tools or AI that will write code for you

Using small snippets of code from the internet is acceptable *(but should not be needed).* If you do use a small snippet of code from the internet, you should leave a reference as a comment in your code

Collaboration Policy

All labs will be individual submissions.
For programs, you are allowed to work with **one** partner.

When it comes to labs, you *may*
- Share ideas with other students in the class.
- Work together on labs in the same physical location.
- Help other students troubleshoot problems.
- Give hints or provide textbook page numbers/slide numbers to students seeking help

You may *NOT*
- Share your code and solutions directly with other students.
- Submit solutions that you did not write.
- Modify another student's solution and claim it as your own.
- Share your report or solutions directly on Discord

Additional MSU Resources:

https://www.cs.montana.edu/pearsall/classes/msu_resources.html

Diversity Statement

Montana State University's campuses are committed to providing an environment that emphasizes the dignity and worth of every member of its community and that is free from harassment and discrimination based upon race, color, religion, national origin, creed, service in the uniformed services (as defined in state and federal law), veteran's status, sex, age, political ideas, marital or family status, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation. Such an environment is necessary to a healthy learning, working, and living atmosphere because discrimination and harassment undermine human dignity and the positive connection among all people at our University. Acts of discrimination, harassment, sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and retaliation will be addressed consistent with this policy.

Inclusivity Statement

I support an inclusive learning environment where diversity and individual differences are understood, respected, appreciated, and recognized as a source of strength. We expect that students, faculty, administrators and staff at MSU will respect differences and demonstrate diligence in understanding how other peoples' perspectives, behaviors, and worldviews may be different from their own.

Counseling

In addition to eating right, taking breaks when you need them, and getting enough sleep, you may benefit from talking to a professional counselor if you think stress could be impacting your health. Here is a blurb and some links from MSU's Counseling & Psychological Services: MSU strives to create a culture of support and recognizes that your mental health and wellness are equally as important as your physical health. We want you to know that it's OK if you experience difficulty, and there are several resources on campus to help you succeed emotionally, personally, and academically:

- Counseling & Psychological Services: montana.edu/counseling
- Health Advancement: montana.edu/oha
- Insight Program (Substance Use): montana.edu/oha/insight
- Suicide Prevention: montana.edu/suicide-prevention
- Medical Services: montana.edu/health/medical.html
- WellTrack: montana.welltrack.com/register

Civil Rights

There should be no discrimination or harassment for anyone at MSU. If you notice anything that seems to violate that principle, the Office of Institutional Equity can help. As an employee of MSU, I am a mandatory reporter, which means if I learn of any discrimination or harassment at MSU, I am obligated by my contract to report it.
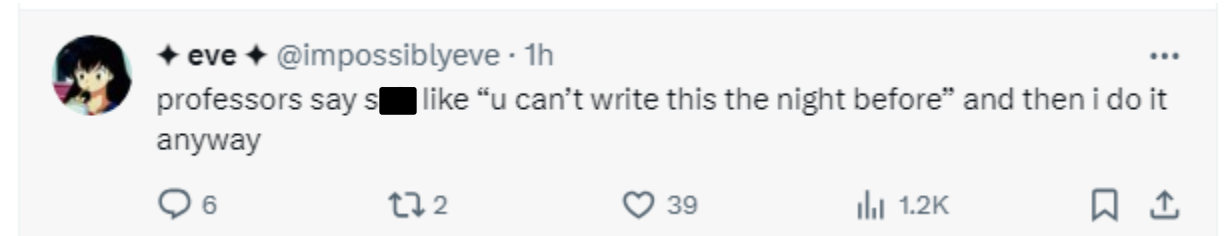
Hamilton Hall, Offices 114, 116, and 118

"Not everyone can become a great artist, but a great artist can come from anywhere"

How to do well in this class

- The first few weeks of this class move fast, and it can be easy to get behind.
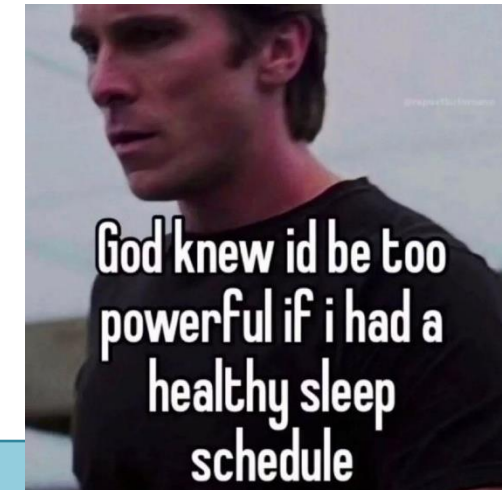**Get help when you need it**

- Get started on assignments early (especially programs)!

- Come to class and office hours

- Take care of yourself

Questions?