Clear Springs High School Instructor Course Syllabus  
Department of CTE – AP Computer Science A  
2020-2021

**I. Instructor Contact Information and Office Hours:**

1. Charles Wang
2. Office: 2336

Office Etiquette: Please come prepared to ask the question(s) you want me to answer. We will discuss your work. We will practice using precise scientific/mathematical language and properly defining terms.

1. Email: [cwang@ccisd.net](mailto:cwang@ccisd.net)

Email Etiquette: Think of me as a potential employer. Please use proper punctuation, capitalization, and grammar in emails to the instructor, teaching support staff, and peers. Summarize your email in the subject line. Ask the specific question(s) that you want answered. Ask scientific/mathematics questions in class or during scheduled office hours. Email is not to be used as on-line tutorial.

1. Tutorials:

I will have tutorials Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30 – 3:15. In addition, I may be able to stay until 4:00 (with prior notice). I may announce additional tutorial sessions to be held on M/W/F during class. It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of any additional tutorials.

**II. Course Description:**

This is a 2nd year computer science course designed to prepare students for the AP Computer Science A exam. Students should already be familiar with programming concepts such as Boolean logic and control flow. We will be learning the Java programming language and exploring numerous concepts including OOP, Polymorphism, and an intro to some data structures.

**III. Instructional Materials:**

1. Java IDE
   * BlueJ: We will be using the BlueJ IDE for coding practice
     + Desktop computers will be provided in class.
     + Students should download BlueJ (<https://bluej.org/>) on their own computers to continue working outside of class as necessary. You can either download from software center or download the USB standalone version from the BlueJ website.
   * Repl.it: We will be using Repl.it IDE for our online IDE. Please create an account.
2. GitHub: We will be using GitHub for code submission. Please create an account.
3. CSAwesome: Our online textbook
4. Study Resources
   * CodingBat
   * Practice-It!
   * Barron’s AP Computer Science A Study Guide
5. Somewhere to store my files (I like OneDrive)
6. Note/idea-taking materials (I like OneNote)
7. “What do I need to be successful in this class?”
8. Other Links:
   * See other resources used at my website: <https://thewangclass.github.io/>
   * See Scaffolding Document:

**IV. Instructor Goals for Students:**

1. Help make this an enjoyable and beneficial class (e.g. be positive productive contributors in class, make class design suggestions, help others in groups and while presenting), discovering and challenging self and peers (names, strengths, and weaknesses), modeling productive behavior, exceeding expectations
2. Improve written and verbal communication acumen (well defined terminology, avoid using undefined terms and formulas). The clarity and structure of your solutions, reports, and sample exam questions constitute a large portion of our goal to improve your communication acumen.
3. Are honest with self and others. Avoid memorizing formulas, looking at solutions prior to attempting yourself, and never submit work of others.
4. Take responsibility for learning a) course content, b) improving communication ability, and c) contributing to course objectives.

**V. Classroom Culture: The culture of our classroom will include:**

1. Minimize Class Distractions: We likely want to have a zero tolerance policy on cellular phones, watch alarms, and mechanical erasers at all times. We do not disrupt class while others have the floor.

Cell Phone Notes: If you are doing anything on your cellular phone outside of allowed times, then you are in violation of our cell phone policy and you are self-aware of your violation.

Cell phones are not allowed on quizzes and examinations.

1. Personal Responsibility: Students are entirely responsible for their understanding of course content and maintaining appropriate classroom behavior. Excuses are discouraged.
2. Ethics: We will practice appropriate ethics in our class. You will be honest with yourself, your peers, and your teachers. Lying, cheating, plagiarism, and failing to report such behavior will result in appropriate consequences.
3. Collaboration: You are encouraged to study together and to discuss information and concepts with your peers. You can and should both give and receive “consulting” help. However, this permissible and encouraged cooperation should never involve one student having possession of a copy of all or part of work done by someone else in any form.
4. Recommended Collaboration Practice: Making sense of mathematical topics on your own is the most effective method to learn mathematical/scientific ideas and techniques. First attempt the problem or assignment on your own. If you get stuck, re-write the question down exactly and write down all that you know. If still stuck, bring your work to Mr. Wang with your specific question(s). As soon as you have ideas, then you should stop listening to us and try to finish your work on your own. You may discuss problems with peers who have not yet solved the question. If you ask a classmate who has solved the question, then this peer should give helpful guidance, and should not just tell you the answer. As a general rule, everything that you turn in for this class should represent your own work; it should not come from another source (peer, solution manual) and should never be copied. If you do learn a substantial part of the idea/solution method from an outside source, then be sure to properly acknowledge and document this fact on your paper/problem.

**VI. Course Overview**

**1st Nine Weeks**

Unit 1-4

**2nd Nine Weeks**

Unit 4-6, 8

**3rd Nine Weeks**

Unit 7, 9-10

**4th Nine Weeks**

Interfaces and Abstract Classes

Review

Final Project

**Link to Updated Calendar:** <https://ccisdnet-my.sharepoint.com/:x:/g/personal/cwang_ccisd_net/Ee63VxWUEIpKtg10_Eq4sS4BeHYwFn-25GElWM7upvgOuw?e=uj8Vx9>

**VII. Scaffolding**

There is another document that contains all my scaffolding resources. The reason I do this is because I am constantly updating this document as I find things I think would be pertinent to this class. If you are looking for a little more help understanding a topic or if you want something just a bit more, follow the link!

**Link to Scaffolding Document:** <https://ccisdnet-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/cwang_ccisd_net/EX4cZjqOzORMtRPjnq-j6X0BZgWjTw28Y2tUfFV1ad7gog?e=2fwgVP>

**VIII. Instructor Specific Course Policies**

1. Grading Guidelines: Grades will be determined on a percentage based system where each category will be worth a certain percentage towards your nine weeks grade. The following list shows each category and its weight toward your grade:
   * Major Grades – 55%
   * Daily Grades – 40%
   * Reading Assignment – 5%

* All work should have a heading in the upper right-hand corner.
* Work without a name will be discarded after 1 week.
* Work not completed by the due date will incur a penalty of 25% off the first and second day late. After two class days late the grade becomes a zero. **This is district policy.**
* Cheating will not be tolerated and will result in a zero on the assignment along with a discipline referral.

1. Homework: Homework will occasionally be assigned.
2. Test Corrections: Students will be given 1 week from the date they receive their test scores back to complete test corrections (exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis). Students must bring all their homework completed and have done corrections on all applicable quizzes to be eligible.

**IX. Changes**:

This syllabus is subject to modification. Any changes will be announced in class.