

## CS 240: Keys to Success in CS 240 Transcript

[00:00:00] I want to point out some important keys to success in CS 240 as I mentioned in, in one of the earlier intro videos, CS 240 is considered to be a hard class. Not because anybody wants to make it hard.

[00:00:12] We don't want to make it hard, but programming is hard learning to program something, something large is hard and actually, you should be happy about that. You should be glad that it's hard.

[00:00:22] The fact that it's hard means not everybody can do it.

[00:00:24] So when you're able to do it, somebody's going to pay you a lot of money for that.

[00:00:28] So, this is a difficult topic and so it's important that you pay attention to these keys to success.

[00:00:34] So the first one keep up with the assigned reading.

*Start visual description. The professor demonstrates the importance of keeping up with the assigned reading. The professor emphasizes that attending every lecture and watching every lecture video might not be enough to cover everything about Java and programming. End visual description.*

[00:00:38] Now, one of the things I want to point out is if you attend every lecture and watch every lecture video, you might be able to get by in the course without doing the reading.

[00:00:47] Um Actually I know quite a few students do that and it works ok for them.

[00:00:52] Um But they're really missing out on something if they do that there's no way we can cover everything in the lecture videos that you should know about Java and about programming.

- [00:01:02] So you need to do that in order to learn what you should learn.
- [00:01:06] Keep in mind that this course isn't just about building a chess server and a chess client.
- [00:01:10] It's about learning to build large program and you'll be missing a lot of what you should have and what you should know about that if you don't do the assigned reading, one thing that I like to say is if you don't read the books I've read, you'll never know what I know.
- [00:01:24] You'll never know it the way I know it.
- [00:01:26] So you should keep up with the assigned reading.
- [00:01:28] You also need to attend every course lecture um for, for students in blended or in person, in person sections.
- [00:01:35] And if you're taking an online version of this course, make sure you watch every lecture video.
- [00:01:40] And another one that's in all caps here is, is all of these are important, but this is maybe the most important one.
- [00:01:46] Do not procrastinate starting on uh starting or working on the projects.

*Start visual description. The professor demonstrates the significance of not procrastinating on projects. The professor explains that many students fail to complete the course because they wait until the last minute to start their projects, which can take 40 or more hours to complete. End visual description.*

- [00:01:50] We have so many students who wait until the last minute, they wait until the last day or two.

[00:01:54] And these projects take a lot of time, some of the phases will take 40 or more hours to complete.

[00:02:01] And so that doesn't work.

[00:02:02] If you put that off until the last day, I know a lot of students get into some bad habits in, in certain courses and they kind of cram on the last day before something's due to write a paper or something like that and maybe they get by in some courses, but that just doesn't work in CS 240.

[00:02:15] Um We have some students who fail to complete the course every, every semester and end up taking it again.

[00:02:23] And by far the leading cause of that is procrastinating, waiting too long to take uh to start the projects.

[00:02:30] In fact, I in my in person classes, I'll mention that and there's almost always at least one or sometimes two or three students in the class who are in exactly that situation and sometimes they'll raise their hand and give a little testimony of that and say, yeah, believe what he's saying right now.

[00:02:45] That is absolutely true. That's why I'm retaking the course.

[00:02:48] So that doesn't need to be, you just start early.

[00:02:51] If we give you two weeks for an assignment, it's because we think it takes two weeks to do it.

[00:02:55] So start early.

[00:02:57] And if you find yourself being stuck there, there are two kinds of stuck.

[00:03:00] There are two ways to be stuck. One is you're stuck because maybe you have a bug or something you don't know how to do.

*Start visual description. The professor demonstrates the two types of being stuck: having a bug or not knowing how to start. The professor advises students to seek help from TAs for bugs and to find code examples or talk to instructors if they can't start. End visual description.*

- [00:03:07] Um That's easy-to-get help with um spend your time, follow the t A help policies.
- [00:03:13] But then if, if you're not able to resolve it, go get help from A T A and they'll help you resolve it.
- [00:03:17] That's the first kind of stuck.
- [00:03:18] But the other kind of stuck is you can't start, you're, you're stuck for whatever reason and you're just not able to write the first line of code, you're not able to start working on it.
- [00:03:28] Um That, that kind of stuff is related to procrastination usually.
- [00:03:32] Um But you can get help for that too.
- [00:03:34] Um Usually you can find a code example or something that we have provided that gives you some of what you need to do for the project. So, you can start with that.
- [00:03:44] If you still can't get started for whatever reason, maybe you're confused or maybe you're just terrified about how big it is, talk to your instructor or talk to um talk to A T A and they can help you with that.
- [00:03:55] Um One of the thing that I probably should have mentioned in the first video since I didn't, I'll, I'll just mention it now.
- [00:04:01] And that is for those of you who are taking an online version of this course, there will be videos from multiple instructors, mostly it's, it's me, Doctor Wilkerson and Doctor Rodham that have recorded all the videos.

[00:04:14] But if you are taking an online version of the course, you are in one professor section, you're not taking it from both Dr Rod and Doctor Wilkerson.

[00:04:21] For example, you're, you're signed up for one of our sections.

[00:04:24] And so that's the instructor that you should go to.

[00:04:27] Um, if the TAS are not able to help, you don't just go to whichever instructor that you watch the video for, you need to go to the instructor whose section you're, you're assigned to because they're the one that can make decisions um, relevant for you.

[00:04:42] Ok? Um I'll just point out a few things that you should do next.

[00:04:46] So this is almost the end of these course intro videos.

*Start visual description. The professor demonstrates the next steps for students, including reviewing the course GitHub site, getting familiar with it, and completing the GitHub repository creation assignment. The professor mentions that there will be another video describing the site in detail. End visual description.*

[00:04:50] So what you should do is review the course GitHub site. I'm actually going to going to record another video where I do that.

[00:04:57] So there'll be another video where you can watch me describe the site and then you should get familiar with it.

[00:05:02] And as I mentioned before, you should review the course policies on the course canvas page, and you should complete the GitHub repository creation assignment.

- [00:05:10] So we have an assignment, and we usually give you usually just one day. So, depending on when you're watching this video, that assignment might be due tomorrow.
- [00:05:18] Um But that's an assignment to create a GitHub repository for your chess project.
- [00:05:24] There are instructions for that, and I'll point those out when I do a GitHub um site review and I think Dr Rodham is going to record a detailed lecture on that or a lecture video.
- [00:05:35] Um But you should get started on that because you don't have much time for that and then you should do the readings for the first two days.
- [00:05:41] Um, you may not have done the reading for the first day before the first day of class.
- [00:05:44] So, um, you should do that reading and then you should do the reading for the next class before that, before that next class.