

Exploring Computer Science

Teacher info:

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1. Course Description

Welcome to Exploring Computer Science. I hope this class will be interesting and enjoyable, as I will do my best to make it so. This course will be a great overview of what is possible for you in the world of computer science. In this class, there are six units of study:

Unit 1) Human Computer Interaction

Unit 2) Web Design

Unit 3) Introduction to Programming Using Scratch

Unit 4) Robotics

Unit 5) Problem Solving; and

Unit 6) Computing Applications Using a Real-World Programming Language.

Each unit comprises about one grading period with a final project at the end of each unit. Time will be given in class to complete most of the assignments for this class and I do not foresee many homework assignments as long as you remain focused during class time.

There is a link to a detailed course description on my web site.

2. Our Textbooks

With the rapid change of computer science it is not really effective for public schools to purchase textbooks. For this reason, we will be using online resources and some lecture notes in leau of a text.

3. Optional Software for your home computer:

You will not be expected to do any programming **on a computer** at home (I cannot expect that every student has a computer at home). If you are interested though, you can install the software that we will be using in this class. All of this software is free!!

Unit 1: No software needed

Unit 2: Any text editor will work. We will be using Komodo Edit in class:

<http://www.activestate.com/komodo-edit/downloads>

Unit 3: Programming in Scratch: <http://scratch.mit.edu/>

Unit 4: Robotics software will be distributed when we get there.

Unit 5: No software needed

Unit 6: Programming in JavaScript using the tools provided by Khan Academy

4. Tardy Policy

Schoolwide tardy policy.

5. Grading Policy

5% - Journal Blog Entries
30% - Quizzes/Tests
30% - Daily Duties
30% - End-of-Unit Projects
5% - Participation

Grading scale	92 - 100	A	77 - 80	C+
	90 - 92	A-	70 - 77	C
	88 - 90	B+	68 - 70	C-
	82 - 88	B	60 - 68	D
	80 - 82	B-	<60	F

6. Classwork Requirements

Journal Entries	You will be expected to thoughtfully answer journal prompts in your Blog. I will be checking your blog electronically each grading period to ensure that you are keeping up with this task. It will generally be an assignment that you will do when you arrive in class.
Quizzes	Expect one every two weeks.
Daily Duties	Generally, each day there will be Daily Duties. You will find the duties on my website as you come in the lab or on the agenda in we are in class.
End-of-Unit Projects	Each unit has a project that will be done at times individually and at times in groups. The project will be on my website as the unit begins so that you can begin thinking about it during the entire unit.
Participation	At times we will be sharing what we have done with others. You will be expected to participate with this sharing.

7. Required Materials:

- Notebook
- USB Flash Drive (provided for those who do not have one)