

AP CS 2006-07 :: Course Expectations

4th period :: M, T, W, F :: 10:45 – 11:30 Rm. 204 (Lab days in 202)

YOUR TEACHER:

Baker Franke

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<http://www.bakerfranke.com>

Office: UH 202 School Phone: 773.702.5419

Home Phone: 312.771.0112 (only emergencies and please before 9:00pm)

Extra Help: Mornings before school and by appointment

WHAT WE WILL DO:

- Programming: just a part of CS; Java, just one of many perfectly good languages
- Solve problems using a computing machine
- Learn to reason abstractly about processes; analyze algorithms and prove things about them; make decisions about the most efficient way to do certain things.
- AP Test, May 8th. We will take the more comprehensive AB test.

WHAT YOU NEED:

1. An organized notebook dedicated to CS. Sections: NOTES, LABS/WORKSHEETS, QUIZZES/TESTS
2. Pen/cil and paper for note-taking EVERY DAY.
3. Books:
 - Karel J. Robot: A Gentle Introduction to the Art of Object Oriented Programming; Joseph Bergin, et. al. Preliminary Edition, Dream Songs Press, 2005. – **Purchase at the Bookstore**, or online at <http://www.cafepress.com/kareljrobot>
 - Java Software Structures: for AP Computer Science AB; Lewis, Chase, and Sudol. 1st Ed. Addison Wesley 2005. ISBN: 0-321-33161-3. **Distributed in class.**
 - All other materials distributed on class web site.
4. A computer at home is convenient, but not totally necessary. All work *can* be done at school. We will not spend class time setting up your home computer, but I will provide you some support. Check the website.
5. CHECK YOUR ucls EMAIL DAILY! I will be emailing you at your UCLS account and only at your ucls account, with important notices and extra help. If you need to setup your UCLS account or forgot your password please see me outside of class.

HOW TO SUCCEED (IN THE COURSE AND ON THE AP):

- Take responsibility for your learning: Participate in class, ask questions, seek extra help.
- Take good lecture notes. The source for all quizzes will be based on material covered in class.
- Plan to write major programs in more than one sitting.
- Use the web site.

HOW YOU WILL BE GRADED:

- Labs and Programming assignments: 50%
- Tests: 20%
- Quizzes/Problem Sets: 20%
- Class Participation: 10%

GRADING:

Class Participation:

You will be called on in class to provide a response. Please do your best to answer the question or work the problem. Try to avoid saying, “I don’t know,” or “Go to someone else.”

Homework/Problem Sets:

You will have “regular” homework – e.g. reading & questions, short paper/pencil problems, etc. You will receive a homework grade based on the scale below. In the case where there are several important questions, each problem will be graded on the scale and then averaged for that assignment’s score. Late homework will not be accepted. Some number (one or two) of your lowest HW grades will be dropped each quarter.

Homework Grade Scale: **5**-Excellent/Perfect, **4** –Very good work: no worrisome gaps in understanding, **3**-Good work: Completed assignment, but perhaps minimally, and/or some gaps in comprehension, **2**-Partially incomplete and/or clear lack of comprehension, **1**-Turned in, but not satisfactory/poor effort, **0**-Not turned in/late.

Quizzes:

We will have weekly quizzes, typically on Friday. They shouldn’t take more than the first 10-15 minutes of class. Quizzes will be graded on a standard percentage scale. The quizzes will recap the week’s lectures and lab work. It will also provide valuable practice for more difficult material. You cannot make up a missed quiz unless you tell me about it more than 24 hours in advance (i.e. the night before doesn’t count).

Programming Assignments:

We will have larger programming assignments roughly every week. These will start out as Lab assignments that can be completed in a class period or in a short sitting at home. As the year goes on and things get more complex assignments may be spread out over two- or three-week spans and you will be expected to produce significant work on your own. Grading for programs will be done differently for each assignment depending on the focus of the work. You will receive a letter-grade for each assignment, and you should feel clear about what kind of work will receive what kind of grade.

See Fig. 1.1 on page 3 of the Lewis to see the characteristics of a quality program.

Tests:

We will typically have two tests per quarter: one midterm test and end-of-quarter test. I will do my best to grade exams in the same fashion as the AP exam (this is easy for multiple choice, harder for free response). Not all questions will mimic the AP test, however. You will receive an AP-style grade (an integer 1-5) for your reference, and a letter grade which I will use to calculate your school grades.