

COS 109: Computers in our World

- **Brian Kernighan**
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 - 311 Computer Science Building, 258-2089 (email is always better)
 - office hours Mon 2:30-4:00 & Tue 3:00-4:30 (for now),
or make an appointment, or just drop in any time
- **fill out the survey, including your lab preferences** (labs start next week)
- **check the COS 109 web site daily:**
www.cs.princeton.edu/courses/archive/fall09/cos109
- **today:**
 - administrivia
 - course overview
 - what's in the news?
 - important basic ideas

Administration (check the web page daily!)

- **notes will be posted online before class**
 - but not everything will be in them
- **readings: ~1 hour each week, before class** skim slashdot.org (2 min/day)
- **8 labs: 2-3 hours/week plus reading to prepare**
 - labs start next week in Friend 007/009
 - let us know your preferred sections so we can plan
come to any, all, or no sessions any time
you can do most labs in your own room on your own time, but no help from us
- **8 problem sets: 1-2 hours/week**
 - read the collaboration policy on the web page
- **open-book take-home midterm during midterm week**
- **open-book final exam in January**
- **grading (approximately):**
20% labs + 20% problem sets + 20% midterm + 40% final
class participation helps; frequent absences will definitely hurt
remember that P/D/F has three possible outcomes
TAs: Connelly Barnes, Melissa Carroll, Sean Gerrish

House rules

- please stay away if you're sick !!!
- please turn cell phones off
- please don't use your laptop or your phone
 - it distracts you
 - it distracts your neighbors
 - it distracts me
- please don't snore (sleeping is ok)
- please ask questions about anything at any time

Course Outline

- **hardware (3-4 weeks)**
 - how computers represent and process information
 - what's inside a computer, how does it work, how is it built?
- **software (3-4 weeks)**
 - how we tell computers how to do things
 - a gentle introduction to programming in Javascript
- **communications (3-4 weeks)**
 - how the Internet and Web work
 - threats and countermeasures: security, privacy, cryptography, ...
- **systems / case studies (1-2 weeks)**
 - putting things together: search engines, cellphones, peer to peer, ...