COS 126 Roadmap
Course website

Need details? Go to www.princeton.edu/~cos126.

• Syllabus.
• Meetings.
• Lectures.
• Assignments.
• Precepts.
• Exams.
• Help!

Important note: We do not use BlackBoard (except to post grades).
A contract between you and us.

- Front page of website.
- **Read it carefully.**
- General information.
- Grading.
- Collaboration policy.
Our new textbook is the basis of this course.

- Full coverage of course material.
- Developed for COS 126.
- Use while learning and studying.
The book is supported by a unique resource.

- Summary of content.
- Code, exercises, examples.
- Test data, animations.
- Extra material.
- **NOT the textbook.**
- **NOT the course website.**
- For use while online.

http://introcs.cs.princeton.edu  ← bookmark this page, too!
Video lectures

**Online lecture materials are on the website**
- Copies of slides (.pdf and 4-up).
- Studio-produced videos.
- **No more live lectures.**

**Why? Because you can**
- Fit lectures into your schedule more easily.
- Slow down or rewind if you get lost.
- Speed up or skip if you get bored.
- Watch before precept to prepare.
- Watch before exams to study.
- Focus on understanding, not note-taking.

**Bottom line.** Online format has *proven* to be a much more effective and efficient approach.

“Lecturing is that mysterious process by means of which the contents of the note-book of the professor are transferred ... to the note-book of the student without passing through the mind of either.”

– Edwin Emery Slosson
20th Century

21st Century
Class meetings

We often meet here Tues or Thurs at this time but not always.

• Exam preparation and review.
• Exams.
• Assignment preparation (sometimes).
• A few miscellaneous enrichment topics.
• Check Meetings tab for schedule
• No meeting this Thursday
We have many opportunities to determine your level of achievement.

- 9 programming assignments.
- 2 written exams (in class, 10/18 and 12/13).
- 2 programming exams (in class, 10/11 and 12/6).
- Final programming project (due Dean’s date – 1).
- Extra credit / staff discretion. Adjust borderline cases.

We do **not** grade on a "curve".
You will learn to program “with a purpose”

• Weekly programming assignments.
• Interesting and informative.
• Practical application of lecture topics.
• Introduction to meaningful applications.
Exams

We have exams in the fall
- Two written exams.
- Two programming exams.
- Prep sessions in class meetings
- No final exam

Programming exams.
- October 11 and December 6.
- Mini in-class assignments.
- “Can you write a short program?”
- You will need to practice.

Written exams.
- October 18 and December 13.
- Written by RS.
- “Did you watch the lectures and do the reading?”
- One question per lecture (roughly).
Platform changes

**Integrated development environment**

*We have changed from DrJava to IntelliJ*
- Some slides in Lecture 1 are “deprecated”.
- No changes in textbook.

**Submission platform**

*We have changed from Dropbox to TigerFile*
- Big changes under the hood.
- You just click the *Submit* button.

Please note. People who took COS 126 in the past may not know these platforms.

we’re learning them, too!
Where can I get help?

You have many resources.

• Preceptors.
• Piazza.
• Office hours.
• Lab TAs.
• See Help! tab for details.

We have a carefully articulated collaboration policy.

• Working with others within the rules is encouraged but we strictly enforce the rules.
• See the Syllabus on the website front page for details.
• Ignorance is no defense (read it carefully today).
Piazza

You will most often find answers on Piazza.

- Try it when you have a question.
- Visit occasionally even if you have no questions.
- Available around the clock.

Dos.

- Take the time to provide a thoughtful answer.
- Point to book or website when you can.

Don'ts.

- Provide a guess as an answer.
- Ask a question before checking the book or website.
- DO NOT POST CODE (EVER).