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Lectures: MWF 11:00 – 11:50, 185 Lillis

Labs: T 12:00 – 12:50, 26 Klamath, or
R 9:00 – 9:50, 26 Klamath

Web Page: http://www.cs.uoregon.edu/classes/08S/cis170/

Textbook: Computer Science: An Overview, by J. Glenn Brookshear
(Addison-Wesley / Prentice Hall, 2009)

Overview: This course is a general introduction to the field of computer science. It will be oriented to students who are considering a CIS major, but should be of interest to anyone who is curious about what computers are and how they are used in a wide variety of areas that impact our lives today. The general theme for Spring 2008 is the role of computer science in electronic voting:

- representing data (numbers, strings, music, photos) in a computer system
- algorithms (operations on data)
- computer networks, with an emphasis on issues related to electronic voting (e.g. security and encryption)
- databases (are voter registration databases secure and reliable?)
- software engineering (how do developers test systems? have direct recording electronic voting machines been adequately tested? should they be required to use open source software? what are the user interface issues?)

Although the topics are fairly technical, the lectures and projects in this course will be accessible to anyone with a basic background in math (the equivalent of MTH 112). The course satisfies the UO Group requirements for Group III (Science).
Labs: There will be one- or two-week lab projects throughout the term. Grades on lab projects will be based on write-ups that will be submitted via Blackboard.

Most projects will use a programming environment named Ruby. Ruby is open source software that can be downloaded and installed for free on any system. Ruby is preinstalled on Mac OS/X 10.4 and above; instructions for downloading and installing it on Linux and Windows systems can be found on the class web page.

Ruby has been installed on computers in the UO Computer Center microcomputer labs in Klamath B13 and McKenzie 101.

Exam: A comprehensive final exam will be given during finals week.

Grading: Lab projects: 65%
Final Exams: 35%

Extras: Most labs will have extra credit opportunities. Other ways to earn extra points include contributions to discussions in class and posting to on-line discussions.