CIS 170: The Science of Computing

Syllabus
Winter 2009

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Lectures: UR 2:00 – 3:20, 248 Gerlinger

Labs: F 10:00 – 10:50, 26 Klamath, or
F 12:00 – 12:50, 26 Klamath

Web Page: http://www.cs.uoregon.edu/classes/09W/cis170/

(PDFs will be available on the class web page)

Overview: This course is a general introduction to the field of computer science. It should be of interest to pre-CIS majors and anyone who is curious about what computers are and how they are used in a wide variety of areas that impact our lives today. 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.

Exams: Midterm exam, held in class, week 5 (date TBA).
A comprehensive final exam will be given during finals week.

Grading: Lab projects: 50%
Midterm Exam: 20%
Final Exam: 30%

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.