**Instructors**

Bill Chapman is currently the only professor for CS125. He makes the class interesting by having videos and useful demonstrations and sometimes he brings in cookies for people who answer questions in class. He is great at answering questions and is also very helpful during his office hours.

This class is a very popular class so there are many TAs and course assistants. This means you are guaranteed to have your questions answered. Every discussion section is lead by a TA (different for every class and semester) and then they are assisted by around 4-6 undergraduate course assistants that have taken the class recently.

**Prerequisites**

This class is meant to be an introduction into computer science, so it is perfectly okay if you have never coded before. While it will definitely be more challenging for those who have no coding experience, the class starts with the basics and builds from there. You do not need to take CS 100 or CS 101. However, if this is your first time coding, be prepared to spend some time for this class.

**When to take it**

If you are majoring in Computer Science or a CS+X, definitely take it in your first semester if possible. This is the class that every other CS class builds off of and is a pre-req for everything else. Some people are able to proficiency out of the class (take the final in the first week and can skip it) however this is not recommended because there are some concepts not covered in AP Computer Science that are essential for later CS classes. In addition, you will meet a lot of fellow CS students in this class and it is a good way of building study groups for later classes. Some students also take this class concurrently with CS173 Discrete Structures. This is doable because 173 is not a coding class, so you will not be overwhelmed.

**Class Content**

The class is taught in Java and covers print statements, objects, classes, sorting algorithms, and runtimes (big O) to give a very broad overview. The beginning of the class starts off pretty slowly but picks up pretty quickly. Do not fall behind on basic structures like arrays! There is a large emphasis on sorting algorithms midway to the end of the semester and you analyze runtimes as well.

**Work**

The class has daily coding practice problems on Turnings Craft which only take 15 minutes but then there are also MPs (Machine Problems) which you have between a week to 2 weeks to complete. This MPs are more involved and will take up a lot of time. They are a good indicator of how much you understand in the class. CS125 has no surprises- everything is very clearly listed out for you and by keeping up with the lectures and MPs you will be ready for the final and CS225.

**Grading**

A more thorough explanation of the grading can be found on the course website, but in general, MPs are a very small portion of your grade. If you do not do them, you will not get an A, but doing them ensures you understand the topics are ready for the final.

Attendance is take at lectures and you get points for showing up and participating through a partner assessing system.

There are weekly quizzes that cover topics from the week before. These quizzes are an hour long (but it usually won't take you the entire time). These are worth a large part of your grade (45%), so do not take them lightly! They are taken on the computer through a computerized testing facility. This means you have no other midterms for this class.

There is a 3 hour written final that is worth 25% of your grade. It is comprehensive and will require you to hand write your code.

**Moving Forward**

After you have taken 125, you will either take CS173 or CS225. Everything you learn in this class will show up over and over again (seriously though). You can take CS173 concurrently with CS125, or you can take it the next semester alone, or you can take CS173 and CS225 together.