



Disc 0: Welcome to CS 61A!

Lab 128L | Soda 275, Tu 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m

Disc 128 | Evans 9, 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m

TA: Caroline Lemieux

(slides adapted from **Nancy Shaw**)

Plan for Today



1. Intros + Icebreaker
2. About CS 61A
3. About my class
4. **Activity:** Lost on the Moon
5. Learning in CS 61A (and beyond)
6. Morals

About Me

- Caroline Lemieux
 - 3rd year CS PhD student
 - Research: automated software testing, etc.
 - Undergrad: Math + CS @ **UBC** (not UCB)
 - No programming experience before that!
 - Also teaching 61A extra lectures (coming soon!)
- Lab:
- Office Hours: TBA
- Website: carolemieux.com/61a.html
- Email: clemieux@berkeley.edu
- How to spell my last name? LE-MIE-UX



Icebreaker

About CS 61A

About CS 61A



From the syllabus:

*“In CS 61A, we are interested in **teaching you about programming**, not about how to use one particular programming language. We consider a series of techniques for **controlling program complexity**, such as functional programming, data abstraction, and object-oriented programming.”*

Assignments and evaluation

- 13 individual homework assignments
- 4 projects
 - **Hog** - Individual
 - **Maps** - Individual
 - **Ants** - Partnered
 - **Scheme** - Partnered
- 35 participation events
 - ~12 lab assignments
 - ~10 lab checkoffs
 - ~12 discussions to attend
- 2 midterm exams
- 1 final exam



Course Resources

Online

- cs61a.org
- [Piazza](#)
 - Ask questions to fellow students and staff members.
 - Answer questions asked by other students.
- **TAs' supplemental resources:** cs61a.org/resources.html
- **My discussion slides (soon):** carolemieux.com/61a.html

In-person

- **Office hours:** schedule out soon
- **Homework/project parties:** announced as they come up
- **1-on-1 tutoring:** weekly sign-ups on Piazza soon
- **CSM:** sign-ups after Midterm 1



About my class

About my class

My goals for discussion:

- Recap lecture topics
- Work on problems in groups or as a class
- Make it comfortable to ask questions
- Learn and adjust to all your learning needs
- Have fun!

I'm always open to feedback on how I can make class a better experience for you!

As the semester goes on, the structure of class will adjust according to your performance and feedback!

When to ask questions

During mini-lectures:

- If you need clarification on what I am explaining
- If you need further examples to understand a concept
- If you have a related question from lecture



While working on problems:

- If you want 1-on-1 help to understand a concept or work through a problem

While going over problems:

- If each step of the solution is not clear
- If you came up with a different solution and want to check if it works

Communicating with me

In person:

- After lab or discussion
- Appointment by email

Email:

- clemieux@berkeley.edu
- Mention 61A somewhere in title/body
- Expect response in next “business day”

Anonymously:

- links.cs61a.org/caro-fb



Some things to remember

- **Be respectful.**
 - People come from all different backgrounds
- **Be helpful.**
 - Work on problems together! If you feel like you have a good grasp of a concept, help those around you.
- **Be unafraid.**
 - (Again) Ask questions! There's no shame and other people are probably confused about the same things as you.
- **Be happy!**
 - If you are struggling, ask for help.
 - We want you to enjoy this class!

Activity time!

Work together in groups of 4 to complete the task on the worksheet.

Your spaceship has just crashed on the moon. You were scheduled to rendezvous with a mother ship 200 miles away on the lighted surface of the moon, but the rough landing has ruined your ship and destroyed all the equipment on board except for the 15 items listed below. Your crew's survival depends on reaching the mother ship, so you must choose the most critical items available for the 200-mile trip.

Your task is to rank the 15 items in terms of their importance for survival. Place a number 1 by the most important item, number 2 by the second most important, and so on, through number 15, the least important.

Learning in CS 61A and beyond

What are your goals for CS 61A?

What are you worried about?

Tips for success

1. Strive for progress, not perfection.
2. Ask for help.
 - Piazza
 - Office hours
 - See the *Communicate with me* slide
 - Make friends!
3. Embrace failure, it's part of the process.
4. Help others. Learn by teaching.
5. Don't overcommit. Manage your time well.
6. Take care of your physical and mental health.
7. Take practice exams



CS 61A myths, debunked

CLAIM: Smart students can figure out the material on their own, even if it means working on a problem set for hours.

TRUTH: Self-sufficiency is rewarding, but only to an extent. The most successful students realize when they need help and learn how to ask for it.

CLAIM: You need to fully understand lecture material before starting on a problem set.

TRUTH: If you fully understood all concepts in lecture without doing problems, then you wouldn't need to do the problems! Assignments are there to aid the learning process, not evaluate you.

CLAIM: If I spend way more time than other students on assignments, I'm bound to fail this class.

TRUTH: Everyone works through things at a different pace. The speed at which you learn is not indicative of your ability to program or do CS.

CLAIM: If I get bad grades in this class I'm not fit to be a computer science major.

TRUTH: This class has a predefined grading system, and like all systems, it doesn't accurately accommodate everyone's needs and differences. For example, you can be a great programmer but be terrible at taking exams. Focus on learning, not your grades.

Mental health resources

School sucks.

You're never alone. You're not weak for asking for help.

- [Tang center counseling](#)
- CoE counseling
 - Christine Zhou (christinez@uhs.berkeley.edu or (510) 643-7850)
- Talk to your friends
- Talk to me
- Phone apps
 - [Youper](#): helps with managing stress and anxiety



Acknowledgments

Cute stickers

Nancy Shaw for the original slides

<https://www.stickermotions.com>

Pandadog and Friends

Pandi

Mostropi

Ya-ya

Tonton and Friends: <https://www.facebook.com/stickers/193082274544043>