

CS3 Fall 2005 Final Survey Question:

What advice would you give to students who will take CS3 in future semesters?

All responses can be viewed online at:

www-inst.eecs.berkeley.edu/~cs3/documents/cs3advice.pdf

Most common responses:

- **Go to lab** and ask lots of questions; GSI are helpful
- Don't fall behind in lab, catch up as soon as you fall behind
- Do the reading before lab
- prepare to spend a lot of time with the class
- find a good partner to do projects and study for exams
- Ask for help

Unique (and perhaps helpful) responses:

- "Take breaks for every hour in front of the computer screen if you want to protect your eyes and be prepared to learn most things on your own."
- "Focus very hard on the first two weeks. You learn a lot there, there is a LOT of stuff to do and it is very easy to fall behind."
- It's not as bad as you might make it out to be
- Show up at lab. Yes you have the option of working at home, but I thought a big part of the class was working in a class environment. If you don't get something, you can first ask someone next to you. And if they don't get it then a TA can explain it to you. Stay ahead of your work. Don't get behind on labs. With a few exceptions, I think most of the labs could be finished in the allotted time. The few times I got behind it was a real pain catching up.
- if you have time, go to extra labs. it is really helpful...

- FOR THE LOVE OF GOD AND ALL THAT IS HOLY, DON'T TAKE 8 AM LABS!
- Keep up on the labs, don't fall behind, and be sure to ask questions if you don't understand something.
- Always be on the top of the labs, and Simply Scheme is a great resource if you ever get confused on the lab material
- Do not get an 8am lab time
- work from home, don't go to lecture, just go to lab to do the quiz and then leave
- Always go to lab and never hesitate to ask your TA for help.
- Go to lab, get started on your mini-projects/projects early
- Take it. It's a relatively easy course that will give you a good foundation for cs61A.
- read the book
- Read the book, besides your TA and the labs it is your most valuable resource
- The class is decently easy, but study hard so you don't make stupid mistakes that will cost you a good grade
- do the examples in the book and start on the final project early in the semester. do your homework and find someone smart to help you through the class assignments.
- do what ever it takes to finish the labs and look for extra help.
- read the text, especially before exams.
- do not take it unless you really need to
- this class is a lot of time. and it is annoying if you are not a CS major. it seems very unapplicable.
- Make sure you finish every lab.
- its very helpful to stay caught up with the labs, going every time and not falling behind
- keep up with the work, because if you miss one thing, you don't have anything to build on for the next
- Do the labs and read the book!
- the first few weeks might be a little tough if you had no programming experience. otherwise, it should be okay if you keep up with the activities.
- - make time for it!!! it's an intense class.. - go in open-minded or you'll get lost really fast.. - negative attitudes about the class get you NOWHERE in the class.. grade-wise, at least.. you can hate it and hate it and hate it some more; but you'll s
- Just find someone you can talk to about programming if you have trouble.
- Ask other students for help--many times they are as helpful as if not more than the GSIs and TAs themselves.
- graders will be nitpicky
- If you have programming experience, prepare for an easy ride, however if you haven't, prepared to learn a lot.
- Be prepared for a difficult course that takes a lot more work than at first look.
- Do not fall behind early
- put comments for procedures so you understand what you are doing
- DON'T GET BEHIND IN LAB! You will never catch up!
- Keep up with your work. If you fall behind it can be very hard to catch up.
- This is a good introductory course to programming. If you are already good in programming, or have prior experience and knowledge with programming languages, don't bother to take CS3. CS3

is very helpful in helping you learn programming as a beginner at it.

- Don't fall behind because it's very difficult to catch up.
- Stay on top of your work!
- Go to your labs and don't be afraid to get help from your TAs if you need it
- - learn how to use Unix and especially emacs quickly - have an idea of how to program a function before writing - think of possible bugs via legal inputs and test all of them - break long procedures into multiple shorter ones if possible - test as you
- Do not procrastinate.
- Keep up with the labs and reading. Don't get left behind.
- It's not as bad as you might make it out to be
- Take IDS 110 if u cant put in a gazillion hours of time, or are not taking any other CS classes after CS3
- Go to lab, or at least do all the lab materials. Don't let other people help you too much when you get stuck, because you will learn more from solving your own problems.
- I would suggest that they don't give up. Some people might have considered using Unix to be too confusing, and coding to be too complicated, but if they're good at math, figuring out Scheme shouldn't be too hard, because it is a series of overcoming obstacles ... if only to scale higher ones.
- just try to keep up. once you get a little behind, you fall WAY behind and it's hard to catch up. i wasn't very behind but just the one time when i was one and a half lab behind, i was LOST.
- Be prepared to spend A LOT of time writing programs. Don't procrastinate. Practice what you've learned, even outside of lab and homework.
- read the book and find a partner for the entire class. Its very helpful to have someone to help work through projects and study with.
- Don't leave off classwork until the last minute. Try to keep up with each day's work.
- Do all the labs and homework, and actually read up on material if you don't understand.
- Go to lab often and ask GSI questions if you don't understand a concept.
- Work on projects in a timely manner.
- do the practice midterms in a timed situation
- Stay caught up in the labs - the hands-on experience helps a lot more than reading the text or attending lectures.
- Not much... the course is pretty well directed. I would say just go to lab because that's where you really learn the material. Study old exams. Talk with and get to know other students because collaboration really helps, even just talking out how you plan to start a program.
- Sit in a place you won't get bothered.
- Do everything in a lab because it helps with future projects and homeworks
- don't fall behind
- stay on top of things and don't get behind. get help from the people around you. make friends in lab so that you can have some support for studying and projects.
- Attend the midterm review sessions.
- If you don't already have a basic concept of cs then don't take the class. Be prepared to work hard
- Do fall behind
- Labs do not teach you anything.
- go to labs and lectures.
- Don't take a 5-8 lab, because it is really best to do EVERYTHING in the lab, and it's impossible to do that when you're starving.

- GO TO LAB! DON'T FALL BEHIND
- Always stay caught up in lab work and in reading.
- Do the labs.
- come to lab and ask questions
- Do the labs, and keep up the labs so you don't fall behind. Falling behind is very bad.
- Show up at lab. Yes you have the option of working at home, but I thought a big part of the class was working in a class environment. If you don't get something, you can first ask someone next to you. And if they don't get it then a TA can explain it to you. Stay ahead of your work. Don't get behind on labs. With a few exceptions, I think most of the labs could be finished in the allotted time. The few times I got behind it was a real pain catching up.
- Get as much practice as possible. Do as many problems as you can.
- do not get behind! i repeat do not get behind! even one day it will be extremely difficult to catch up if u even can
- Keep up with the lab and the reading.
- Read and do the labs
- really understand someone before you move on, because the newer materials are always based on the old materials
- I would advise them to make sure that they have lots of free time in their schedules. CS3 was deceptively easy on paper but in reality was my biggest time sucker this semester. Be prepared for long lab sessions and exams that are tough. Don't think this is an easy A.
- Make sure you go to labs and make use of the help that your TA can provide. When studying for a midterm, make sure that you've done one or two of the practice midterms from previous semesters - those really help. Just make sure you don't fall behind, and focus on the lab activities, and it really shouldn't be that tough a tall.
- The midterms are long, and you should study for them, but the labs are sometimes deceptively easy. Also, you should read the book even though you really don't want to.
- unless you want to be a cs/eecs/need it for a major...don't
- Keep up with class.
- Keep up with the work because being behind will make it hell for you because things come up and you would rather do those things than cs.
- Be sure to keep up with the labs because this is how one learns the material. If you fall behind, the work will pile up on you and before you know it you will fall behind in class.
- Don't take an extremely heavy courseload at the same time.
- Keep up with the work. Slight experience in programming may be helpful, as taking CS61A for the first two weeks helped a lot.
- Do everything in a lab the first go-around, and keep all your lab work organized so you can refer back to it.
- make sure you have time to work on all the assignments
- Take the labs seriously and learn as much as you can there.
- Get the required readings early
- Do NOT fall behind!
- Don't miss any labs, because they are long and you will see yourself in a huge hole later in the semester.
- come to lab sections and do the labwork, make sure you understand everything b/c things will come up again throughout the course
- - don't slack off! - go to lab! - read the book! it's a very well-written book!

- Do the homework and the labs on time to be well prepared for the midterm. Doing the provided practice problems are only helpful to a certain extent, doing all of them is excessive.
- Take this course seriously. Although it is simply a basic course to CS, it is not that easy.
- Don't fall behind and get help if you don't understand.
- Stay on top of labs
- don't slack off
- keep up on labs and do the homeworks and it should come relatively easily
- if your procedure's go wrong.... test every case in the interpreter
- don't fall behind and solve twice as many problems than you think you should do. Also, have fun, don't stress out and ask for help.
- Take it only if you need it, or if you are really considering becoming an EECS major
- Make sure to go to labs and keep up
- Go to Lab, Finish projects early!
- Save your work frequently.
- Just enjoy it and try to learn. You don't need mastery.
- Work with the course. Read the book. Do the labs religiously. Practice a lot of problems.
- It's going to be tough if you've never done programming before. Be patient and stick with it and you'll eventually gain the same skills as all the other students. Really the only difference between the person who gets the A in the class and the person who gets the C is the amount of time they spend on their code.
- Go to lab.
- I would tell them to attend every single lab and to not fall behind because that is the key for success in this class.
- Get help from the TAs
- Good introductory course. Go to lab; the TAs can't help you if you aren't there. Find a good partner for the projects. It makes it much easier.
- It starts out easy, but gets pretty difficult.
- Make sure you don't take many hard classes, or classes that take a lot of your time. This one will take care of that. And if you are a freshman, this is mostly for you.
- Don't let labs build up. Finish them quick. Make sure you understand the concepts.
- Go to lab! The TAs are very helpful and the best way to learn about computer science is to work on a computer. Additionally, make sure to read the accompanying text before lab so you have an idea of what's going on (esp on quiz).
- go to lab
- don't forget that midterms are open notes. do lots of problems before the test, and print out all the answers to them. know CS in terms of patterns.
- Focus very hard on the first two weeks. You learn a lot there, there is a LOT of stuff to do and it is very easy to fall behind.
- Make sure to read the book and to go to labs. GSIs will always be helpful.
- start on the final project early
- Pick a hard-working partner. Study for your exam; the labs may seem easy but the exam certainly isn't.
- Read the book and do all the sections from lab. Practice, practice, practice. Ask for help when you need it, don't waste time if you're stuck.
- Do practice problems outside the coursework. And give plenty of time to tackle projects.

- take it with caution; if you are not very knowledgeable with computers, you will have a hard time.
- My honest advice would be to skip lectures and not bother buying the book unless they really start struggling. You can learn everything needed in the course in labs, with much less effort than going into the book.
- Read the book and utilize the lab effectively.
- try to become familiarized with the syntax of scheme before starting the class
- Study hard.
- Take breaks for every hour in front of the computer screen if you want to protect your eyes and be prepared to learn most things on your own.
- Try to get as much help before taking the midterm since midterms tend to not really relate to the things discussed in lab. The midterms are extremely difficult and they need to study a lot to be prepared because the labs do not prepare you for them.
- Do not fall behind
- Make a big effort to stay caught up in your lab activities; if you're having a hard time understanding the material, ask for assistance from your T.A. or read the text.
- don't attend lectures, go to review sessions, try to get all of your lab work done in the lab rather than at home
- just attend the labs
- if you have time, go to extra labs. it is really helpful...
- Don't fall behind early in the semester. Keep up with the labs and practice, practice, practice!
- ask questions if you don't understand
- Be prepared to spend a lot of outside time on labwork and homework, especially if this is your first programming experience or you are a slow learner.
- Don't procrastinate
- Go to lab and take advantage of your TA
- read the book in addition to the labs
- The material is not very hard, but there is a good amount of work to do. Just make sure you stay on top of the work or else you will find yourself with a lot of work to do. Also, make sure you save your files in the right places because they will be graded and you can use them in the future for other programs.
- Read the book thoroughly and practice looking over your code before you test it out. That way, coding by hand for the midterms will be a lot easier.