

Fall 18

Computer Science Self-Pace Rules

Info about CS9 series and CS47B

Everyone has to read this entire document. We kept it short. It contains important information that you are responsible for knowing for your Self-Paced Course.

These courses are “Self-Paced” but they are still serious UC courses. The CS9 courses are designed to be a “second language course” for experienced programmers. The courses do have pre-requisites, we will talk about pre-reqs at the orientation meeting and you can also ask us more about that in person too. We know you will have a positive experience learning the languages and enriching your skill sets, but please note that these courses can take up a lot of your time! So please consider this when planning your schedules. And feel free to ask questions.

Our web site: www-inst.eecs.berkeley.edu/~selfpace

You will find your course study guides with assignments, and sample quizzes. There will also be announcements posted there. Books are listed there. We also will have a link to our course piazzas linked around week 3 where we post announcements regularly. And the link to our tutor appointment system is there too. We are mailing you your schedule calendars but they will be linked to the web site also. The calendar on the web site is just a reference, you don’t have to follow that.

Getting started and set up for your course!

1. Read this document
2. Attend Orientations
3. Go to the web site, find your course assignments, and find all of the above mentioned things.
4. At some point during the first 4 weeks of school, come to the Self-Pace Center to turn in your “self created due date calendar”, and meet the tutors and get to know everyone.

We are devoting the first two weeks to getting students started, so we will NOT be accepting assignments and just helping students with software and calendar creating and what course to take, until Tues Sept 4th . We want to make sure everyone is getting off to a good start.

The Self-Pace Center: Our center is located in 200A Sutardja Dai Hall. You enter through the Yali’s café next door (photos of this will be mailed to you to make it more clear...) not through the 200 lab next door.

Hours: Our hours are: Monday-Wed 1-5, and Fri 1-4. We believe they will remain our regular hours through the semester, but if there are changes we will mail them to you, and post them on

our web site. Also note we stop handing out quizzes the last 30 minutes we are open and don't start new tutoring sessions the last 15 minutes we are open, even if you are signed up.

Entrance Quiz: We have an entrance quiz that's posted on our web site and also will be mailed to you, if you can't answer the questions on that quiz easily then you don't have the background right now to take a CS9 course (47B is exempt). **You can self verify you don't need to bring it into the SP center unless you have questions.** We aren't trying to be mean, we just want you to be able to check if this is the class for you. We have even been told the quiz should be even more challenging. Not having the pre-requisites and trying to take our courses will set you up for a lot of grief. The current climate has made many students eager to learn programming which is great. But our courses do require pre-requisites. Please note just knowing the basic recursion is not enough to prepare you for our courses.

We will stop taking new adds via calcentral early 3rd week. So if you are considering switching courses do so before then.

IMPORTANT note about work load of our courses: Our 9 series courses are 2 units. And can have as much work as a 4 unit course. Please keep this in mind when you consider signing up for more than one class. We don't recommend students with average to heavy course loads take more than one self-pace course at a time. If you are looking to add units there is decal.org for some great two unit courses that are far more manageable for a busy Cal student.

Tutor schedule: Our tutor schedule will be up online soon and will include a link to make appointments with tutors. You need to make an appointment to see a tutor for grading or questions. Quiz taking however is drop in, you can drop in any time (before the last half hour we are open) to take a quiz. Before the schedule is up, you can drop in any time however.

Grading Guidelines: For new students the point breakdown for the SPC courses is as follows:

Assignments and Quizzes 40%

Pacing Points* 20%

Final Exam 40%

Assignments and Quizzes comprises of completion of assignments and quizzes.

Final Exam points are given based upon the points received from the final exam.

P/NP: At least 70% to PASS

Letter Grade for 47B: No curve. 90-100 A, 80-89 B....

***Pacing Points and Make Your Own Schedule:** Everyone will start the semester with 20 pacing points, and then you will make your own calendar of due dates this year, to keep your pacing points, you have to follow the schedule you create to keep your points. A tutor or admin person needs to approve your calendar schedule. So once you set it up (we suggest you wait until you know most of your midterm schedules) you will make an appointment and share your calendar of due dates with a tutor who will sign you off (you can't for instance, make a calendar that just makes everything due the last day of instruction)

Assignment check offs: If you have an assignment ready to get graded, meaning you have all what the check list in the assignment requires, check the tutor schedule on our web site to make an appointment to see a tutor for a check off.

The tutors prefer to see running programs on your lap tops. You can download a compiler to run your program on your own machine. We have some information about different options on our web site or feel free to ask our staff about this. You will also be offered a computer account to use UCB servers using SSH or terminal on your Mac, if you wish. We have some documents we can send you about how to use your account, just ask us about that. Or feel free to ask us questions about this in person too. Feel free to make an appointment with a tutor to talk about how to use your account etc.

Programs MUST be completed before corresponding quiz can be taken. But you can continue working on programs if you are waiting to retake a quiz, in fact we encourage that. For Assignments, you must have your code and test cases showing correctness ready to be examined for the tutor to grade before the grading session in order to pass.

Quizzes: There are also quizzes you take to back up your knowledge. You are allowed to bring in notes during your quiz taking but can't use computers or devices. True, you must have correct answers on all questions on the quiz in order to pass, but retaking quizzes is part of the learning process, and tutors will sometimes allow you to make a change if you made a mental error. Quizzes must be completed in one sitting; they cannot be done as a work in progress. There is a TWO DAY WAIT for retaking quizzes, so it's in your best interest to only take quizzes when you are prepared. Don't just take a quiz due to fear of losing pacing points as that strategy, as that will back fire on you. How do you know you are ready? If you did the corresponding program and feel confident. And really there is nothing to be nervous about. If you are working well with the course, the quizzes are just part of the process.

Key Dates:

Self Pace Center opens on Mon Aug 27th

First day accepting assignments Tues Sept 4th

Last day offering help on programs Tues Nov 27th

Last day open/ accepting work Fri Nov 30th

Finals Probably Mon Dec 10th (verified later in the semester) And we will have a scheduled early final probably before Thanksgiving, date TBD.

***Also note, the last three days we are open Nov 28, 29 and 30th, we will be doing no debugging or general help, just accepting assignments and having quiz taking.**

TIPS FOR SUCCESS:

- Take the courses seriously as you would any class you are taking at UCB
- Plan regular times to work on programs and a regular time to come into the center
- Get to know your tutors and find the ones you work best with
- Keep working on programs even if you are stuck on a quiz. You can work ahead on programs while taking the quizzes

We are here to help so come in any time to ask questions also. Best wishes on your course!

