

## ComS 207: Programming I (in Java) (Spring 2006)

Prof. Alexander Stoytchev

### Student comments

1. [no comments]
2. [no comments]
3. [no comments]
4. The project option was very helpful.
5. [no comments]
6. This was a great class. I am retaking this class and feel this was a much better taught class. I am also minoring in computer science. Thanks a bunch.
7. Let me start out by saying that I am taking this course to broaden my skills in programming. I am a Fortran programmer who wanted to learn OOP. Alex took an extremely complex concept and made it understandable & more importantly applicable.

Alex also demonstrated the use of pedagogy both inside & outside the classroom. As a former professor I was impressed by his instructional methods used in the classroom; they were extremely beneficial and well thought out.

In my years as an undergraduate & graduate student and as a professor I have never met a better instructor in my life. If Alex's research is half as good/productive as his teaching then tenure is a mere formality.

DO NOT let Alex leave ISU, he is fantastic!

8. The labs were great! I got an F last semester & expect an A because of the caring of the TA's. The recitations, however, were unorganized and seem pretty useless.
  - \* The exams took too long! Instructor should be able to write a comprehensive exam that doesn't take 2 hrs+ to complete. My hand hurt when I completed each exam.
  - \* Overall the course was very well taught and day to day very enjoyable to go to.
9. Very exceptional prof.

Personally I learn better by doing. So lectures weren't good for me. Requiring recitations in a 3 credit course seemed unreasonable → they're there for our help, college students should be responsible enough to know

when they should be going.

Labs are a must in a technical course like this - TA's can't make house calls to help us learn programming. Finally, this course is supposed to teach non-programmers the basics. Our industry standards are VBA.

10. I thought he did an excellent job responding to feedback. A lot of lecturers will listen and say "Oh, ok, that's too bad" but he actually changed things that he was doing and improved the course.

I think that the class was much difficult for an INTRO to programming class, especially the exams.

11. Awesome Teacher!!

Easy to pay attention and stay focused in lecture. Fun and fair teacher.

12. At first I thought ComSci and the CS major was a joke. I was dead wrong. I've recommended my brother become a CS major when he enters college; and I was impressed by your DARPA and Asimo projects.

13. This course was a bit different than any previous course in the past two years that I have been at ISU. The instructor related well with students and the homeworks were more useful than any in CS227. I do however believe that the professor wants us to succeed a bit too much that's my only complaint.

14. I really likes this class; I added a minor in computer science because of it. The attendance policy should probably be more clear in the future, though.

15. Homeworks took forever to get grades back. Attendance policy all screwed up. I still don't know how it's going to work...

16. This class is exactly what I was looking for when I signed up. Not too hard - not too easy. Suggestions:

Make source code easier to read (bigger) in lecture.

Keep posting source code.

Keep up the occasional bits of entertainment.

17. [no comments]

18. I really enjoyed this class! I was apprehensive at first, but Alex really made the material understandable. The TAs were also very helpful & knowledgeable. The tests were very time consuming, but covered material well. Keep up the good work, Alex!

19. You taught the course way to fast, and was way to advanced for an introductory nonmajor class. Three hours too complete an exam is horrible, start living in the real world. This class wasn't all freshman.

20. This class was good. You taught the class in which you expected more out of us. Your test were long, but you graded fairly. I liked only having to get 100/130 to get an A on the test. I liked having options.

21. The best teacher I've had at ISU. As a sophomore in MIS with no prior programming experience, Alex did a phenomenal job of inspiring learning. I enjoyed myself thoroughly and learned everything I know from his lectures.
- Having labs was extremely beneficial!
  - Very accommodating scoring/testing system.
  - Highly recommended

Great job Alex, keep up the good work!

22. A lot of material for an introductory course but beneficial.
23. Effective teaching style.  
Good examples.  
Exams were too long.  
Funny, down to earth guy.
24. To be quite frank, I wish there were more instructors like you in every field. The effort you put into each class was obvious and made it easy to have respect for both you and the material. Your fairness is probably legendary, and your sense of humor only further heightened desire to come to class and do well. I wish you taught other subjects!
25. I did not like that if we scored higher than 100 on a test it did not count. Programming is hard to teach to many people. There are many different skill levels. Some have started in 7th grade.
26. Good class, I have taken C, and I learned just as much in Java. Homework was appropriate, but tests were FAR too lengthy.
27. One of the best teachers, if not best, I've had in my 4 years at ISU. Labs were a great idea, first time in programming class should have been done a long time ago. Lectures were good and time spent with homeworks were a lot better than my previous classes.
28. I liked that you took a lot of feedback throughout the class and incorporated it into your class.
29. Great teacher, He should teach 227 the same way he taught 207. Probably the best teacher I have ever had. I have never seen a professor try so hard to get students the best grade possible.
30. Try not to be too dependent on lecture slides, experiment with different techniques.  
You are more optimistic than the previous lecturer of this class. Thanks!
31. [no comments]
32. The labs were useful.

33. This class was awesome. Taught much better than the fall 207. Alex is a great teacher, very helpful and always very prepared for class. Learned a lot and enjoyed myself in this class.
34. This was a very good class & I liked the unorthodox way you taught it.  
One thing that you could improve on is try not to please everyone and make lab/recitation required if you think it should be.
35. Alex did a great job with the class. It was the easiest class to learn in. The lab was helpful & should be continued. Maybe have an assignment during dead week or practice problems for the new material
36. I think the labs should have been used more to do HW. Other than that you did a great job.  
P.S. You still had your mic in outside. We could hear you.
37. [no comments]
38. [no comments]
39. This is great class. The teacher is reasonable. Gives the students the greatest possibility to pass.
40. Especially considering this is his 2nd class, Alex did an amazing job. His examples are really good, and the comparisons to non-programing situations are good.
41. Every professor should teach like Alex does. If they weren't so selfish (i.e., not put much time into teaching) then students at ISU would learn more and at faster rates because they would want to come to lecture and learn. Alex wants to learn and that is important.  
Other very key factors:  
Putting all slides on the Internet  
In class programming examples  
Good homework assignments and tests
42. I thought the class was ran well. The lectures were good and I learned a fair amount during them. All of the sample code and lectures on the website were good because it helped learn when I was doing the homework, The grade scale was a little steep. Because I have almost 100% and could still not get an A with like a B on the final. Overall, well done and I liked the labs and lectures.
43. Alex used every available resource to help students who care do better. Going over material more than once is also great.
44. Alex is a awesome teacher. He handle this class very well and he always ready to help the students in the class and outside the class. I really appreciate the book he choose for the course. This book is more understandable than the other and I learned a lot from the teacher and the book.  
Thanks a lot Alex for wonderful teaching.

45. Alex is a well-organized, enthusiastic, and efficient instructor. His grading policies are extremely fair and it is obvious that Alex eagerly wishes for his students to learn the topic and succeed academically. This course should have a lab! It is just plain silly to expect people to learn how to program without a lab.
46. I enjoyed this class very much, because you made it fun and interactive. Comp Csi is usually a very boring, tedious, and book-to-head type course. However, you brought life to it, made it fun, did tons of examples, and gave a lot of help. You approached Comp Sci in the right way, that it is an on-going learning process and something you just can't memorize in a night. Cheers to you Sir.
47. Alex's lectures were helpful. They gave a real insight to how programming is useful. The homeworks especially made me think. Also Alex is awesome.
48. The labs were quiet helpful. The instructor made the class int resting & his tools used for the class really helped. The slides & special in class practical programming. I took the class before & dropped out of it but this time it was different. Thanks Alex.
49. [no comments]
50. [no comments]
51. I think Alex did a great job teaching this class. He put a ton of effort and time into preparing lectures, exams, and assignments, and was quite receptive of and responsive to students' questions and concerns. Labs were quite helpful.
52. Great class. You should talk a little about how CS is applicable to non-IT and non- EE/CprE people. I picked up a CS minor after taking this class!
53. I thought Alex made this class as interesting as possible. The tests were really hard which sucks, but the grading curve was nice. As a non Com Sci major, I hope that less material is covered next time. Too in depth
54. Alex, you a good teacher, but there just isn't some things that weren't clicking with me.
55. [no comments]
56. [no comments]
57. I thought the course was taught really fast & was a little to advanced for a non-major course.
58. Great work, wish you taught Comps 227.
59. Very good teacher
60. Alex did about the best job he could do.

61. Good teacher. Kept lectures interesting. Good examples
62. [no comments]
63. Alex did a good job. He made a great effort to give everyone a chance to succeed. Programming was new to me, and now I think its awesome.
64. [no comments]
65. He makes this class interesting. I liked coming to class to learn.
66. [no comments]
67. Labs shouldn't have had required attendance since this class is only three credit hours.
68. The computer-based labs really helped. Alex gave us plenty of chances to get an A.
69. Great job. Should have been teaching it all along instead of Lathrop. Keep up the good work.
70. [no comments]
71. [no comments]
72. This class really killed me because he went so fast and I wasn't able to catch on. This class should not be required for my major.
73. Great class, toward the end it became very hard for me to pay attention because I lost track of what programs were working with each other. It would also be nice if words that are not keywords but look like they might be would be pointed out.
74. I think it would be great if lab was mandatory! With either prof or TA's!
75. I don't think attendance should be required. The class is easy enough to learn on your own although you did do a good job of teaching for those who needed it.
76. Humorous lectures and forgetting the microphone at the last lecture was hilarious. Overall a great job and excellent teachings. Thanks!
77. The recitation wasn't useful because the TA didn't prepare for it. He just come to class didn't do much and we just leave earlier. No need lab actually.  
Good Job Alex!!!
78. /\* Alex was a very personable and engaging teacher. His materials and teaching style really helped me learn how to program. The examples he made were very useful when trying to understand new concepts. Great class! \*/

79. The last half of the semester I became lost because the new material was fast paced and overwhelming because you gave us it all at once.
80. - Alex is very enthusiastic
- get some real office hours, not just “by appointment”
  - Tests are too long. Even if the last programming pt. was removed it would still take >60 min.
  - HW great for learning. Takes on average of 5hrs for a non-programmer
  - 4 programs on the exam too much, if 3 programs take me >5hrs, 4 is way too high.
  - We shouldn't be learning new things while taking the exam.