Introduction to Programming

CS 46A

Spring 2026   Sections 02, 03, 11   In Person   4 Unit(s)   01/22/2026 to 05/11/2026   Modified 01/21/2026

👤 Contact Information

Instructor(s):	Dr. Chung-Wen (Albert) Tsao
Office Location:	Duncan Hall 215
Telephone:	N/A
Email:	chung-wen.tsao@sjsu.edu (Once the class starts, use Canvas Inbox)
Class Days/Time:	Section 02: Tu/Th 12:00PM - 1:15PM Section 02: Tu/Th 1:30PM - 2:45PM
Classroom:	Section 02/03: MH422
[Office](#) Hours:	T/R 3:30-4:30 at DH215 or on ZOOM at https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/86784587690 Additional office hours are available by request

🖥 Course Description and Requisites

Introduction to programming for anyone new to the field or who needs a refresher with basic Java programming syntax, object-oriented paradigm, control structures, iteration, etc. Hands-on activities in writing, compiling, executing, and debugging programs for solving real-world problems.

Lecture 3 hours/lab 3 hours.

Prerequisite(s): Math Enrollment Category M-I, M-II, or M-III, or MATH 1 with a grade of "C-" or better; and a major of Computer Science, Applied and Computational Math, Software Engineering, Forensic Science: Digital Evidence, or Undeclared; or instructor consent.

Letter Graded

✳ Classroom Protocols

- Students may be dropped from the class by the instructor for either one of the following reasons:
  - absence for 1st day of class without informing you before 2nd day of class
  - lack of prerequisites.
- Do not ask for special treatment. The rules for this course apply to everyone equally.
- Cheating will not be tolerable;
  - **No use of generative AI tools is permitted.**
  - **No alternation of lockdown browser is permitted.**
  - it will be reported to the Department and the University.
  - you failed the course for
    - any cheating/plagiarism on lab exam, midterm exam or final exam.
    - two cheating/plagiarism on any assignments or lab words.
      - a ZERO will be given to any cheated assignment
- Do NOT share/post online any course materials, PPT slides, or homework solutions.
- Use of electronic devices during exams is NOT allowed unless stated otherwise.
- You are required to check Canvas for reading/assignments.
- The information on this syllabus is subject to change; changes, if any, will be clearly explained in class, and it is your responsibility to become aware of them.
- Once the class starts, use Canvas Inbox to email me for a faster response. I check the Canvas Inbox emails much more often than my school emails.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material:

University Policy S12-7, http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course: Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material. Course material cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor's consent.

Attendance

University policy F69-24 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf states that students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class.

Program Information

Diversity Statement - At SJSU, it is important to create a safe learning environment where we can explore, learn, and grow together. We strive to build a diverse, equitable, inclusive culture that values, encourages, and supports students from all backgrounds and experiences.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

At the end of the course students should be able to:

1. Analyze and explain the behavior of programs using fundamental program constructs
2. Write short programs using fundamental program constructs, including standard conditional and iterative control structures.
3. Identify and correct syntax and logic errors in short programs
4. Select arrays or array lists for a given problem and write short programs using them
5. Design and implement a class based on attributes and behaviors of objects
6. Create and initialize objects using a class and invoke methods to manipulate or retrieve their data.
7. Write Javadoc comments for classes and methods
8. Write graphics programs that draw simple shapes
9. Utilize interfaces and inheritance to define and implement common behaviors across classes, and develop programs that leverage these shared behaviors.
10. Use an integrated development environment (IDE) and a debugger to write, test, and debug programs.

Course Materials

In this course, we will use the following textbook:

Java Early Objects available through ZyBooks

In particular, we will use the ZyBook version of this text. To access this text, use the following instructions:

- Click any zyBooks assignment link in your learning management system
  - (Do NOT go to the zyBooks website and create a new account)
- Subscribe

Optional Text Book:

Big Java - Early Objects
Author: Cay S. Horstmann Publisher: Wiley
Edition: 7th Edition

☰ Course Requirements and Assignments

The course is delivered in person.

- All students are required to have access to a wireless laptop (running OSX, Windows, or some version ofUNIX), with a camera and microphone, upon which you can install the required software.
    - You will need it for all classes, labs, and exams.
- The technology used will include Canvas, programming in Java, and an IDE (Integrated Development Environment)

Lab:

- The lab projects are an opportunity to put the concepts learned in lecture into practice and to improve students' Java programming.
- Most Fridays, there will be a lab.
- Lab projects will be posted before the lab and are due by 11:59PM the day after the lab (Saturday).
- Usually students will finish during the allotted time.
- Lab projects will be completed in pairs.
- if you miss or submit inadequate lab work for 4 times you will fail the course.
    - If you missed or submitted inadequate lab work three times, you must schedule a meeting with the instructor.
- To receive credit for the lab, your group will participate in a short exit interview addressing questions from both the lab and the quiz with the lab instructor or learning assistant.

- If you cannot attend the lab due to illness, you must notify the lab instructor before your lab section begins to make alternate arrangements.
    - To make up for a missed lab, you must contact your lab instructor to complete the exit interview/lab report during their office hours to get the points for the missing lab.
    - You can get at most half the credit (5/10) from the make-up labs.
    - Note that the make-up for a missed lab will still counts as a missed lab.

Midterm Exams:

- Midterms will only be given during class time.
- Makeup midterm exams will only be given in cases of verifiable emergency.
- Midterm exam dates in this syllabus are approximate and are subject to change.

- Students who cheat at the midterm exams will fail the course immediately.

Final Exam:

- The final exam will be cumulative.
- Makeup exams are only given
  - if there is a verifiable emergency or illness
  - if a student has more than two final exams within a 24 hour period and notifies the instructor 2 weeks before the last class meeting.
- Students who cheat at the final exam will fail the course immediately.

Quizzes:

- There will be weekly quizzes throughout the semester.
- The quizzes are designed to help students stay on top of the material and illustrate areas of confusion for both students and the instructor

Technology:

- Students are required to have an electronic device (laptop, desktop or tablet) with a camera and built-in microphone.
- If you do not have access to an electronic device, SJSU has a free equipment loan program available for students (link).
- You will need a reliable WIFI connection to attend class.
- If you run into issues with technology or WIFI, please reach out to the instructor.

✔ Grading Information

- Final grades will not be adjusted in any way - so an 89.99% is still a B+.
- No incomplete grades will be given.
- No late submission of assignments will be accepted except for the verified emergency such as doctor's notes or family death certificates.

100% - 97.00%	A+
96.99% - 94.00%	A
93.99% - 90.00%	A-
89.99% - 87.00%	B+
86.99% - 84.00%	B

83.99% - 80.00%	B-
79.99% - 77.00%	C+
76.99% - 74.00%	C
73.99% - 70.00%	C-
69.99% - 67.00%	D+
66.99% - 64.00%	D
63.99% - 60.00%	D-
below 60.00%	F

Breakdown

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- Quizzes (5%)
- zyBook HW (10%)
- Lab work (15%)
- Participant Excercise (5%)
- Homework (15%)
- Exam 1 (15%)
- Exam 2 (15%)
- Final (20%)

🏛 University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 (PDF) (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information (https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php)](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

📅 Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice via Canvas)					
Lecture section –Tuesday & Thursday				Lab section - Fridays	
Week	Date	Topics		Date	Lab activity
W0	22-Jan	Introduction	HW0		No Lab
W1	01/27-01/29	Our first Java Program, Class and Object	HW1	30-Jan	01.lab
W2	02/03-02/05	(Labor Day) Variable, Object and Method	HW2	6-Feb	02.lab
W3	02/10-02/12	String and Graphics,Implementating Classes	HW3	13-Feb	03.lab
W4	02/17-02/19	Class and Method, Numbers, Arithmetic, and I/O	HW4	20-Feb	04.lab
W5	02/24-02/26	Strings and IO,If Statements and logical operators	HW5	27-Feb	05.lab
W6	03/03-03/5	Nested If Statements, While/For Loop	HW6	6-Mar	06.lab
w7	3/10-3/12	Nested Loops, String	HW7	13-Mar	Exam #1
W8	3/17-3/19	Do Loops, Review	HW8	20-Mar	07.lab
W9	3/24-3/26	Random,ArrayList & Nested Loops	HW9	27-Mar	08.lab.spiral.loop
Spring Break					
W10	4/7-4/9	ArrayLists, Arrays	HW10	10-Apr	10.lab.nested.string
W11	4/14-4/16	2D Arrays, Designing Classes	HW11	17-Apr	11.lab.arrayList
W12	4/21-/4/23	Static Variables & Methods	HW12	24-Apr	12.lab.2d.array

W13	4/28-4/30	Packages & Unit Tests,Inheritance	HW13	1-May	13.lab.debug
W14	5/5-5/7	Polymorphism, Abstraction, interface	HW14	8-May	Exam #2
Final Exam	CS46A-02: Tue, May 19 10:45-12:45 PM				
Final Exam	CS46A-03: Tue, May 19 1:00- 3:00 PM				
SJSU Final Exam Schedule SP26	https://www.sjsu.edu/classes/final-exam-schedule/spring-2026.php				
SJSU Calendar SP26	https://www.sjsu.edu/provost/docs/2025-26%20Calendar%20revised%207-11-25.pdf				