Computer Science 34
Student Missive
Spring 2005

1 Your Staff

1.1 Professors and TAs

CS 34 - Introduction to Systems Programming is taught by Professors Tom Doeppner (`twd`) and Pascal Van Hentenryck (`pvh`). They are joined by a staff of six TAs: Head TAs Mark Johnson (`mrj`) and Eric Tamura (`etamura`) and UTAs Lucia Ballard (`lballard`), David Eustis (`deus`), Stacy Wong (`xwong`), and Todd Lipcon (`tlipcon`).

E-mail addresses:	Professor Doeppner	`twd@cs.brown.edu`
	Professor Van Hentenryck	`pvh@cs.brown.edu`
	Professors and Head TAs	`cs034headtas@cs.brown.edu`
	The entire staff	`cs034tas@cs.brown.edu`

1.2 Hours

The course is lab based. There are no assignments outside of the labs. For that reason, there are no TA hours. However, the professors will hold office hours to be announced.

1.3 Excitement

We are excited for this course and hope that you will provide us with constructive feedback as we go along. And remember, with great power comes great responsibility!

2 Lecture and Lab

2.1 Schedule

Lecture will be held weekly from 3-4:30 on Wednesdays. In addition to lecture, you are responsible for attending 2 hour labs twice a week. You will sign up for one “1” lab and one “2” lab from the following times:

“1”	“2”
Thu, 4:00-6:00 pm	Fri, 3:00-5:00 pm
Thu, 6:00-8:00 pm	Mon, 6:00-8:00 pm

The signup will be available online after class on Wednesday, January 26 at `http://www.cs.brown.edu/courses/cs034/signup/`. Please sign up before Sunday, January 30th, 11:59 pm. You will be notified of your lab times on Monday. Labs begin Thursday, February 3. The last lab will be the week after spring break, with no labs on Friday, March 25. See syllabus on web for further (and up-to-date) details.

Labs will be held in the Sun Lab. Lecture notes will be posted online Tuesday evenings.

2.2 Content

Wednesday’s lecture will cover the material for the labs that week. The second lab will build on the first lab, so it is imperative that you finish the first lab.

2.3 Lab Attendance

Is mandatory.

3 Grading

This is a half-credit, mandatory S/NC course. You will receive either an S or an NC on each lab. To receive an S in the course, you must attend and pass all 16 labs. You are done with the lab when you have shown your work to a TA and he or she has approved it.

4 Makeup labs

On the chance that you do not finish both parts of the lab on Thursday and Friday/Monday or you have a legitimate (dean's) excuse for missing a lab, there will be a makeup lab on Tuesday. One to two TAs will be available from 7-8 pm in the SunLab. You must signup online at
`http://www.cs.brown.edu/courses/cs034/makeup/` by Sunday at 11:59 pm to attend the makeup lab.

5 Course Statistics

We want to cater CS 34 to you! Please run `/course/cs034/bin/cs034_init` from the SunLab and fill out our questionnaire so we know the makeup of the course. Please do so before class on Wednesday, February 2.

6 Newsgroup

```
From:  cs034 person <cs034person@cs.brown.edu>
Newsgroups:  brown.cs.cs034
Subject:  [lab 1.1] how do i compile C code?
Date:  Tue, 03 Feb 2005 13:02:29 -0400
```

The TAs will post administrative issues with the [`admin`] prefix. This should make scanning the newsgroup a lot easier.

For questions or comments that would *not* be of interest to the rest of the class, you can send mail to the CS 34 TA staff. 34 students should not send mail to individual tas, but instead use the `cs034tas` mail alias.

7 Commenting Standards

While we don't want to lay down stringent guidelines for commenting, we'd like you to keep the following in mind:

1. The goal of commenting is to make your code more readable and comprehensible to other people, as well as yourself.
2. You will be reusing in later assignments a lot of code written in the earlier assignments. Good commenting at this point will undoubtedly make your code easier to maintain.
3. On the flip side of the coin, we (your TAs) are (reasonably) intelligent people. Comments like:

   ```
   current = current+1;              /* Increment current */
   ```

are superfluous and aren't really going to help us in any way.