CSC 222: Object-Oriented Programming

Spring 2012

See online syllabus at: dave-reed.com/csc222

Course goals:
- To know and use basic Java programming constructs for object-oriented problem solving (e.g., classes, polymorphism, inheritance, interfaces).
- To appreciate the role of algorithms and data structures in problem solving and software design (e.g., object-orientated design, lists, files, searching and sorting).
- To be able to design and implement a Java program to model a real-world system, and subsequently analyze its behavior.
- To develop programming skills that can serve as a foundation for further study in computer science.

Assumed background

technically, CSC 221 is a prerequisite for this course
- what is really needed is basic programming & problem-solving experience
  - variables: data types, assignments, expressions
  - control structures: if, if-else, while, for
  - functions: parameters, return, libraries
  - data structures: strings, lists, files
- early on, I will map Java constructs back to their corresponding Python
- if you learned a different language, will need to make your own connection

as an intro, 221 focused on programming-in-the-small
- simple problems; could be solved in 1-3 functions; few design choices

this class extends to programming-in-the-medium
- and lays the groundwork for programming-in-the-large by emphasizing the object-oriented approach to software design
When problems start to get complex…

…choosing the right algorithm and data structures are important

- e.g., phone book lookup, checkerboard puzzle
- must develop problem-solving approaches (e.g., iteration, recursion)
- be able to identify appropriate data structures (e.g., array, ArrayList, stack, queue)

…code reuse is important

- designing, implementing, and testing large software projects is HARD
  whenever possible, want to utilize existing, debugged code
- reusable code is:
  clear and readable (well documented, uses meaningful names, no tricks)
  modular (general, independent routines – test & debug once, then reuse)

Object-oriented programming

OOP is the standard approach to software engineering

philosophy: modularity and reuse apply to data as well as functions

- when solving a problem, must identify the objects involved
  e.g., banking system: customer, checking account, savings account, …
- develop a software model of the objects in the form of abstract data types (ADTs)
  an ADT is a collection of data items and the associated operations on that data
  in Java, ADTs are known as classes

OOP stressed ADTs in order to

- hide unnecessary details (programmer doesn't have to know the details of the class in order to use it)
- ensure the integrity of data (programmer can only access public operations)
- allow for reuse and easy modification (can plug classes into different applications)
- inheritance and interfaces can further facilitate the development of reusable code
Getting started

recall: you got a sneak peek at OO at the end of 221
  ▪ Die, DeckOfCards, RowOfCards

we will start next week with the philosophy of OO
  ▪ concepts of class & object
  ▪ how designing classes and instantiating objects leads to modular, reusable code

we will be using Java 1.6 (compiler/interpreter) & BlueJ 3.0 (IDE)
  ▪ both are on the CD that comes with the book
  ▪ can also be downloaded for free from the Web
    ▪ Java (JDK6 or newer JDK7) from www.oracle.com
    ▪ BlueJ from www.bluej.org
    ▪ be sure to download & install Java first, then BlueJ
  ▪ BlueJ is a simple, visual environment; designed for beginners to OO approach

BlueJ screenshot