



University of Washington

Computer Science & Engineering

CSE P 590A: History of Computing
Autumn 2006

Welcome to History of Computing, Autumn 2006
University of Washington CSE P 590A
UC Berkeley PP 190-003 / PP 290-003
UCSD CSE 291 (D00)

Instructors

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BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS, SEPTEMBER 27: Read the book [A History of Modern Computing](#), Paul E. Ceruzzi, 2003. An electronic version of the text is available through the UW library. Do a title search for "A History of Modern Computing" [here](#). If you are off-campus and a UW student, you might want to use the library's [proxy system](#). The number of simultaneous users is limited -- please don't squat!

This course will provide an overview of the history of computing, from Pascal (the person, not the language!) through today. We will rely on a number of guests who will generously give us the benefit of their particular expertise. For example:

Gordon Bell (10/11) on minicomputers and DEC
Butler Lampson (10/18) on personal workstations, distributed computing, and Xerox PARC
Armando Fox (10/25) on the



history of software

Steve Wozniak (11/1) on Apple and the personal computer

Burton Smith (11/8) on supercomputing

Ray Ozzie (11/15) on collaboration software

John Markoff (11/29) on 1960's cultural influences in computing

Bud Tribble (11/29) on Mac OS and leveraging open source

Christos Papadimitriou (12/6) on the mathematical origins of computing

Mike Koss (12/6) on World War II codebreaking (Mike will bring an Enigma cypher machine to class)



If you miss these presentations you'll be kicking yourself for the next three years, so *be there*.

The course is a 4-site distance-learning experiment involving the University of Washington, UC Berkeley, UC San Diego, and Microsoft. Lead instructors will be Ed Lazowska (UW Computer Science & Engineering), Steve Maurer (UCB Goldman School of Public Policy), and Geoff Voelker (UCSD Computer Science & Engineering).

The course will meet **Wednesday evenings from 6:30-9:20** (the UW classroom is CSE 305; the Berkeley classroom is Hearst Mining Building 290; the Microsoft classroom is 113/1159; the UCSD classroom is EBU3B 1202), with one or two 15-minute breaks.

The **first class session** will be **Wednesday September 27**. The **final class session** will be **Wednesday December 6**.

Course requirements will include substantial reading, active class participation (via a course Wiki, and during class sessions to the extent possible given the crufty electronic format), and a team "term paper" project due conclusion of the course.

Syllabus / Lecture Schedule / Readings [here](#) -- still in flux, expect frequent changes!

[[Announcements](#) | [Administrivia](#) | [Readings/Schedule](#) | [Lecture archive](#) | [Wiki](#) | [Projects/Papers](#)]

Announcements

- **11/19/2005:** Yes, Virginia, there *will* be class on Wednesday November 22!
- **10/24/2005:** Information on [final project](#) added.
- **9/24/2006:** "You Be The Expert" assignment posted [here](#). Wiki for signup located [here](#). Please get started immediately following the first class (we will make a Wiki page available that night to facilitate self-organization).
- **9/23/2006:** Note that the course Wiki has a userid and password associated with it. These exist only to thwart robots; they are provided on the login screen.

- **9/15/2006:** Be sure to register for the [class email list](#). (Do *not* sign up in "digest" mode! You will not receive mail!)
 - **9/10/2006:** Before the first day of class, read the book *A History of Modern Computing*, Paul E. Ceruzzi, 2003. An electronic version of the text is available through the UW library. Do a title search for "A History of Modern Computing" [here](#). If you are off-campus and a UW student, you might want to use the library's [proxy system](#). The number of simultaneous users is limited -- please don't squat!
 - **9/10/2006:** Skeletal course web created. The first class session is **Wednesday September 27 at 6:30 p.m.**
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Administrivia

- **Class schedule:** Wednesdays, 6:30pm - 9:20pm, September 27 through December 6.
 - **Class locations:** UW: CSE 305 // UCB: 290 Hearst Mining Building // Microsoft: 113/1159 // UCSD: CSE 1202.
 - **Office hours:** See above.
 - [Instructions](#) for joining the class mailing list. (Do *not* sign up in "digest" mode! You will not receive mail!)
 - [Archived class mailing list](#).
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Readings/Schedule

- **Syllabus / Lecture Schedule / Readings** [here](#) -- still in flux, expect frequent changes!
 - [Background readings and references](#)
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Lecture archive

- Transparencies, video, etc., available [here](#). (Also, instructions for accessing the live webcast of the class.)
 - [Course technology overview](#) (principally for presenters).
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Wiki

- The [Wiki](#) is our course discussion area. Directions for how to set up accounts and use the Wiki are [here](#).
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Projects/Papers

Your performance in this course will be evaluated, very roughly, 25% on a "You Be The Expert" exercise, 55% on a substantial small-group "white paper" at the conclusion of the course, and 20% on class participation (for the most part, consistent substantive contributions to the Wiki).

Further information on the "You Be The Expert" exercise [here](#).

Information on the "white paper" term project [here](#).

Final project papers can be found [here](#).



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