

Information for CS U231 & CS U232 Fall 2006 & Spring 2007 Freshman Honors Seminars 1 & 2

1. The instructor

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2. The basic plan

The idea of this seminar course is to learn to build graphical user interfaces and to create some interesting demonstration projects in Java. The tools to do this will be:

- The Java language
- The Eclipse integrated development environment (IDE)
- The Java Power Tools (JPT)
- The Java Power Framework (JPF) within the JPT
- Other tools in the standard Java libraries

It is not assumed that you know Java and it is not intended that this will be a systematic introduction to Java. You will have an excellent, systematic study of program design in Java in the course CS U213. The goal here is to learn by example and then to imitate and extend. As we go along, I will of course explain things that we do and use but if the examples do not make it 100% clear why an aspect of Java is necessary then perhaps for this course it isn't necessary.

What I want is for students to *build demos*. These demos can be *very, very, very simple* at first and then as you catch on your demos can become more sophisticated. You may work alone or may work in small teams of two. *The fundamental rule is that if anyone makes a contribution to the code that you submit then that person must be given credit in the comments at the top of the file and also at the place in the code where the contribution was made.* In other words, if you tell me there was collaboration in the comments, then it is OK, but if you don't tell me, then I will be quite upset.

As the course proceeds, I would like to have people volunteer to present a demo for 5 or 10 minutes during class. When students are not presenting demos, then I will do demos and explain the Java that we need.

I will be available in my office for much more than my official posted hours and *I really want you to come in with questions, ideas, plans.* Send e-mail to make appointments or drop in. That will really make your experience better.

3. Web sites for Java Power Tools and the Course

Honors Freshman Seminar <http://www.ccs.neu.edu/jpt/fhs/>

JPT Main <http://www.ccs.neu.edu/jpt/>

4. Books???

I do not like most elementary Java textbooks since I find them tedious rather than lively, interesting, and experimental. However, I have many textbooks from publishers and you are welcome to borrow one if you wish. *The point is to learn from examples, experiments, conversations, and collaborations.*