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## **CSC 100**

### **The Beauty and Joy of Computing**

#### **Introductions - To People and the Class**

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Notes for CSC 100 - The Beauty and Joy of Computing  
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

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### **Personal Introductions...**

#### **Things to Know About Me**

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I am... Dr. Steve Tate

*You can call me Steve or Dr. Tate*

*You cannot call me "Hey You" or whatever comes to mind when you are having trouble with your homework at 1:00am*

I am... Head of the Department of Computer Science

*I came to UNCG in 2007 to help start the CS Department*

*I am passionate about computer science*

I am... A cryptographer and computer security expert

*I do research in "trusted computing"*

I am... A person who tries to have a life outside of work

*I have a wife and two kids*

*I like hiking, camping, music (mostly blues), and great food*

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### **Every Person is Unique in Some Way...**

#### **How are you unique?**

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The challenge:

Introduce yourself, where you come from (home town or high school or transfer school or... ?)

Give one thing that is true about you that is not true about anyone else in the room. If someone else says that's true about them, then you have to try again!

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## Who is CSC 100 for?

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**Primarily:** Entering freshmen who want to learn about computer science, particularly those who are considering majoring in computer science

**But also:** Anyone else who wants to learn more about computer science.

*But be aware: In this class we will also talk about some topics that are particularly important for 1st year students - how to succeed in college, study tips, etc. If you're a senior, you might find this boring - but then your role can be to give advice to the freshmen!*

**Also important:** This class has a significant number of students in the AToMS Learning Community - welcome!

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## Syllabus Review

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A *syllabus* tells you what to expect from a class - the class rules, what is expected of you, how you will be graded, how you can ask questions, and usually a calendar or topics list for the class.

### **Let's review the CSC 100 Syllabus**

*Every class you take at UNCG will have a syllabus. Always (always, always, always, always) read the syllabus carefully on the first day of class. You might even want to review it several times during the semester as well for a refresher...*

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## Tour of Online Resources

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Class web page: <http://www.uncg.edu/cmp/faculty/srtate/100>

Blackboard: <http://blackboard.uncg.edu/>

*Blackboard is for secure grade-related items: submitting homework, lab solutions, reading reflections, and checking your grades.*

Class discussion (Google groups):

<http://groups.google.com/group/bjc-at-uncg>

Blogging

Mine: <http://uncg-csc-100.blogspot.com/>

*Consider creating your own!*

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## Random College Advice 1

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You are responsible for your own learning.

*Typical high school week: 35 hours in class, 5-10 hours homework  
Typical college week: 15 hours in class, 30 hours "homework"*

This is not just more high school! "Homework" is not just for practice, or reinforcement - it's a primary way you learn!

Related to this:

*High school attitude: If it was important, the teacher would have said it  
College attitude: Important things might come from outside readings*

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## Random College Advice 2

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You are responsible for your own success.

*If you are struggling with material, you need to seek help!*

All instructors have office hours; most will schedule other times if you need them; tutors and other help resources are often available.

But the first step is yours - admit when you need help!

Don't give up: Your education is the most important thing you can do for your future - Don't let anything take away your future!

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## Random College Advice 3

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Readings are not just a bunch of facts to remember!

*They are ideas to understand, connect to other ideas, and connect to your own life. Always ask why? (Indulge your inner 3 year old!)*

When you are reading you should constantly be questioning what you're reading, trying to judge your own grasp of the material (big word of the day: "meta-cognition"), and trying to make connections with other things you know.

Almost a mini-scientific method: constantly question whether your conceptions (your "hypothesis" or "model") agrees with what you are seeing/reading.

I'll help you with this: Reading Reflection Questionnaires

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## Random College Advice 4

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### Do the readings before class!

Class time should be for discussion, clarifying issues you're uncertain about, taking things in new and interesting directions, ...

Class time should not be for simply repeating what's in the book in "lecture form" - you're all literate, so we shouldn't have to have "reading time!"

### Think about this:

University professors are often among the world's top experts in their field  
You can read - think about what you'd like to ask an expert as you read!

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## Random College Advice 5

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### Do things that make you uncomfortable!

*Getting out of your "comfort zone" is the way you grow as a person. Whether this is pushing yourself academically, participating in extracurricular activities, getting to know people with different backgrounds, ... Experience new things!*

*And if living off campus: Spend more time on campus than you "need to"*

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## What's coming up next...

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### Things for you to do:

- Make sure you can access your UNCG email!
- Fill out the background/interests survey (a link will be emailed to you)
- Test out the class discussion forum by posting a reply to the "Welcome" message

On Wednesday: Mark Armstrong will give an overview of the computer science program/classes at UNCG

On Friday: Your first lab - remember to come to Petty 222

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