

CEI New Faculty Orientation

Sharing from HKUST Professors
14 August 2020

About Me



- Desmond Tsoi
- Serving the Department of Computer Science and Engineering
- Courses Taught
 - COMP 1022P Introduction to Computing with Java (Common Core Course)
 - COMP 2012 Object-Oriented Programming and Data Structures
 - COMP 2012H Honors Object-Oriented Programming and Data Structures
 - COMP 3021 Java Programming
 - COMP 3511 Operating Systems
 - COMP 4971A/B/C/F Independent Work
 - CSIT 5800 Introduction to Big Data (MSc Course)
 - ENGG 4930 Design for Global Health
 - ENGG 4950T Engineering Special Project: Design for Global Health
 - ENTR 4904L Student-led Entrepreneurship Acceleration Project
 - UROP 1000/2100 Undergraduate Research Opportunities



Good Practices

1. Know our students
2. Introduce the need and the importance of the teaching subjects
3. Create “good” lecture slides
4. Deliver course materials in easy, detailed, progressive and interesting manner
5. Design assignments that are interesting and of adequate level of difficulty
6. Aware of student learning difficulties
7. Being a constant companion of students during the learning process

1 Know our Students



COMP1022P Introduction to Computing with Java
- Programming Background Survey (Spring 2020)

This is a survey aims to collect information about your programming background.

Name *

Short answer text

Student ID number *

Short answer text

Which school are you in? *

- School of Engineering
- School of Science
- School of Business and Mangement
- School of Humanities and Social Science
- School of Interdisciplinary Programs
- Other...

Year *

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

Select the programming language(s) that you have learned before. (You can select more than one.)

- C
- C++
- Java
- JavaScript
- Pascal
- Python
- Visual Basic
- Other...

How confident are you in your programming skills?

- Very confident
- Mostly confident
- Somewhat confident
- Not confident



1 Know our Students

SFQ Comments [COMP 1022P]

- The course is **well designed for beginner** to learn the language of programming language, with its contents in a well-organized order.
- The content and course outline are **very clear and easy for beginners**.

2 Introduce the Need and the Importance of the Teaching Subjects

SFQ Comments [COMP 1022P]

- The content is also useful in **daily life and is interesting**.
- Apart from teaching the essentials of Java programming such as basic syntax required to make a program run properly, the course instructor also sets aside an **ample amount of time teaching workplace conventions, practices and technical terms and emphasizes the importance of following them**.

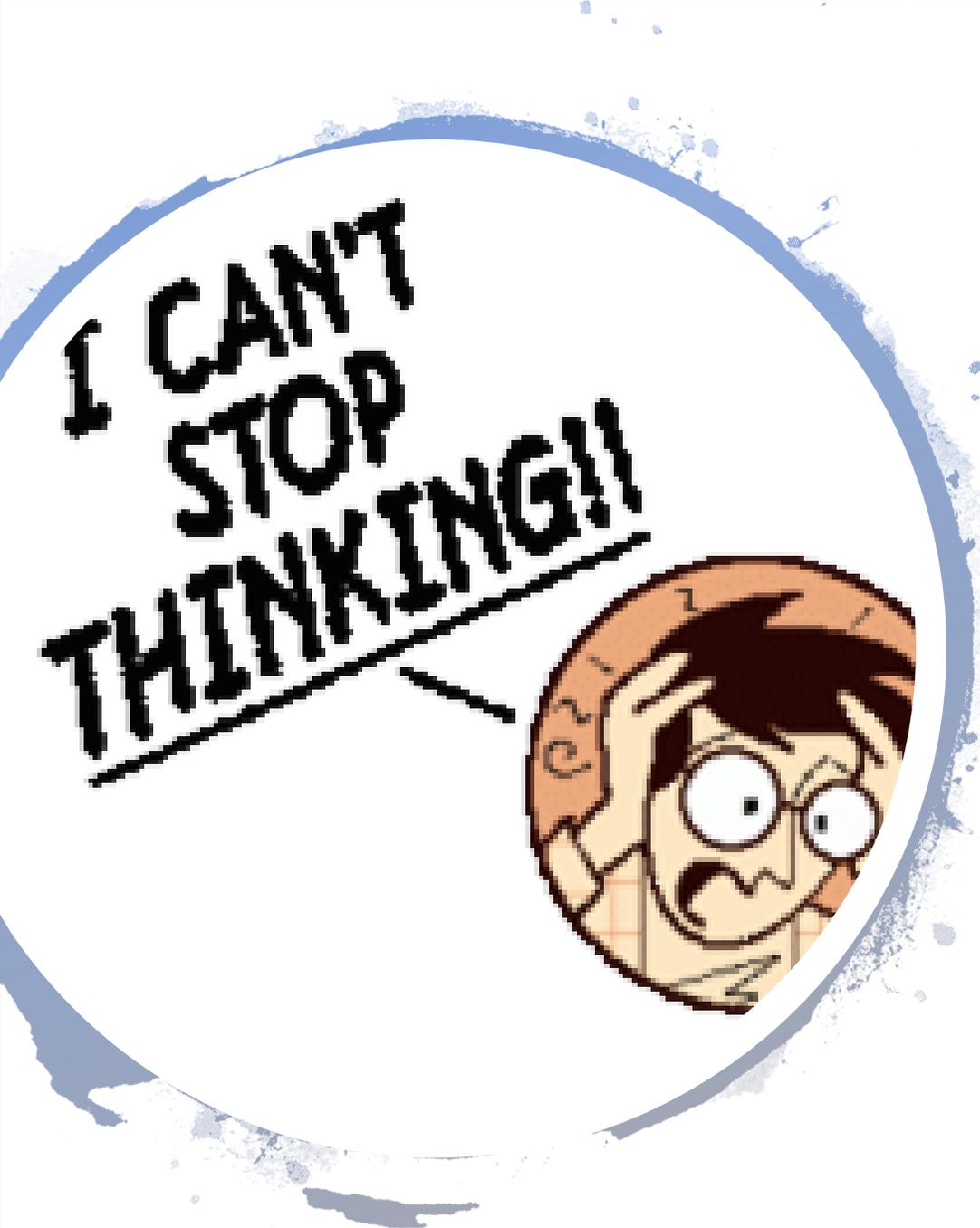


SFQ Comments [COMP 2012]

- Instructor inspires students and **teaches a lot about practical programming** instead of just course materials.

SFQ Comments [COMP 2012H]

- Good introduction to Computer Science with **real-life application**.



3 Create “good” Lecture Slides

SFQ Comments [COMP 1022P]

- The **well-designed** course structure and **knowledge sequence**.
- The course is well designed for beginner to learn the language of programming language, with its **contents in a well-organized order**.
- He really tries to motivate the class and **teach us more in-depth knowledge than what the slides offer**.
- His **notes are explicit, not too long and not too short**.
- The notes were very well constructed. The professor even provided us with a **lot of extra materials to help us understand the content** of the course better.

4

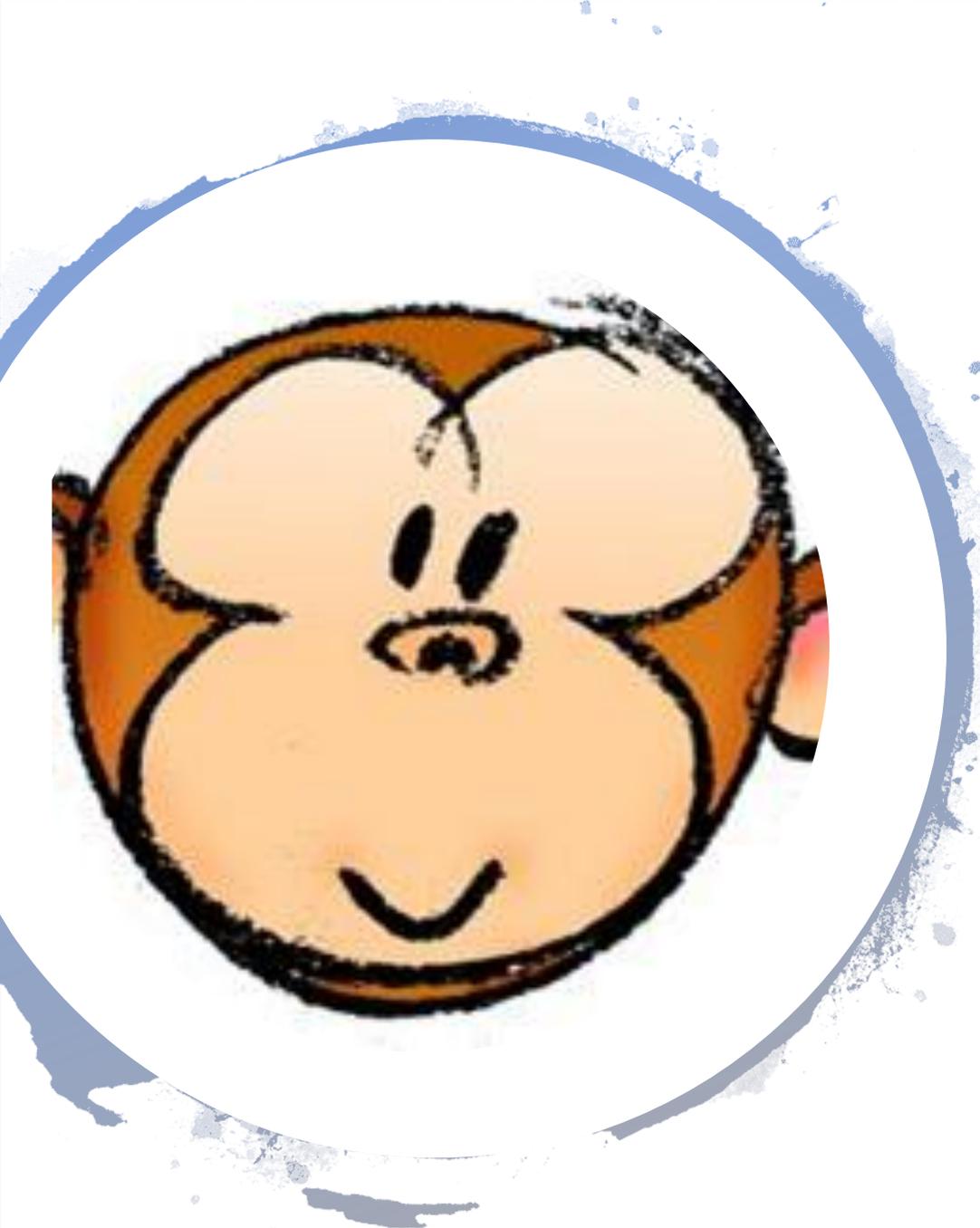
Deliver Course Materials in Easy, Detailed, Progressive and Interesting Manner

SFQ Comments [COMP 1022P]

- Every **concept is explained in great detail** including special (edge) cases that Java programmers may occasionally stumble upon if they are very unlucky.
- Dr Tsoi is very nice and friendly, giving clear explanation. He is always trying to **make the class more interactive**.
- He is a very funny guy who always **makes the learning atmosphere easy and relaxing**. And he **never rushes through the materials**, always **uses examples** to make sure that everyone understands the basic concept.
- He **motivates students to think** and **explains all the concepts clearly**.

SFQ Comments [COMP2012]

- Attending Desmond's first class, I was awestruck. I never knew that **programming concepts could be related in such a clear and simple way**.
- The **step-by-step view** of program output was also very helpful.
- He would also use not only the lecture notes but the **other tools to demonstrate those ideas practically**.
- He is also very funny in class and **frequently prompts students to respond to various questions**. This helps students to concentrate in the early morning and stimulates our thinking.
- The instructor always **explains the concepts with details and demos**, I love his teaching style.



5

Design Assignments that are Interesting and of Adequate Level of Difficulty

SFQ Comments [COMP 1022P]

- For the midterm exam, I think the difficulty is suitable and also the **labs are fun!** For the **assignment**, I think they are all **well-designed**.

SFQ Comments [COMP 2012H]

- Each and every **programming assignment was highly relevant to the course material, academically challenging and intellectually stimulating but not impossible.**
- The design is **well-balance between the learning outcomes and the workloads.** Overall, the whole course is really well-designed.
- The assignments and lab exercises are **well organized and thought-provoking.**

6

Aware of Student Learning Difficulties

SFQ Comments [COMP 1022P]

- Often **take care of students who have no coding background**.
- Desmond is really **caring** because he understands the pace and difficulty of the lectures and arrange several make-ups, I have to say, without these make-ups I won't learn well. Thanks Desmond!

SFQ Comments [COMP2012]

- He always **provides suggestion to learn the course better**, love him.
- The instructor is extremely **responsive to each and every question** asked during and/or outside of lectures and often **sends extra emails to clarify key concepts** covered in the lectures (or otherwise).

SFQ Comments [COMP 2012H]

- Desmond would **also take care of our needs and he is very friendly**, in which he would ask our opinions and conduct **midterm survey for improvement of the course and the instruction**.





7

Being a Constant Companion of Students during the Learning Process

SFQ Feedback [COMP 2012]

- All those **extra hours outside class** that he put into the course.
- The instructor pays extreme efforts to the course and **encourages, inspires students in every single lecture**. He also **takes extra care of individual students about their academic life, career** etc.
- He is extremely passionate in his teaching and is always **happy to answer questions**.



Any Questions?