

# PHP Programming Online Orientation

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Hello and welcome to the online orientation for CS 130A, PHP Programming. I'm Tom Boegel, your instructor for this course.

## Orientation Topics

- What this Course Covers
- Accessing Course Content
- Brief Overview of Course Policies

In this online orientation we're going to cover three topics. First, we're going to talk about what CS 130A covers. We're then going to talk about how you're going to access course content, and we'll wrap up with a brief overview of course policies

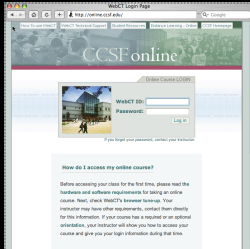
## PHP Programming

- PHP is a language you can use to generate dynamic online content
- In this course we'll cover the basics of the PHP programming language
- We'll also examine connecting our PHP pages with a MySQL database

As many of you already know, PHP is a programming language that is primarily used to generate dynamic online content. In this course we'll cover the basics of the PHP Programming language. Since this course does not assume any prior programming experience, we'll start with the basics -- variables, assignment statements, conditional statements -- but we'll quickly move to more complex topics. This course culminates in creating several PHP pages that interact with a MySQL database.

Course Content is on our  
WebCT Server:  
<http://online.ccsf.edu>

You will need a WebCT ID  
and Password to Access  
this content



You can access all of the content for this course through the WebCT server, available at [online.ccsf.edu](http://online.ccsf.edu). To access this course content you'll need to know your WebCT ID and Password. We'll discuss your WebCT ID and password now.

## WebCT Access

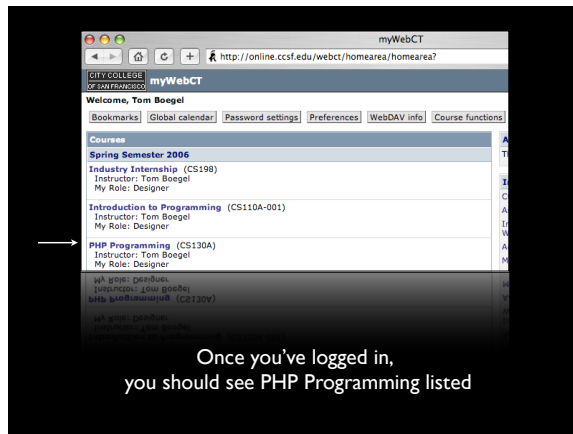
- Your WebCT ID is based on your Student ID
- If your Student ID starts with a W, that's your WebCT ID
- If your Student ID starts with an @, replace the @ with the letter X

Your WebCT ID is based on your student ID. If your Student ID starts with a W (or other letter), that's your WebCT ID. If your student ID starts with an 'at sign', you'll need to replace the at sign with the letter X. Don't try to use your social security number -- it won't work.

## WebCT Password

- If you have used our WebCT server in a previous semester, your WebCT password is unchanged
- If you are new to WebCT, your password is "changeme"

If you've ever taken an online class at City College before, you've accessed our WebCT server, and the password you had at the time is the same password you have now. If you're new to WebCT, your initial password is 'changeme' -- one word, lower case, no quotes, c-h-a-n-g-e-m-e.



Once you've logged in to the WebCT server you'll see a list of classes that you have access to. PHP Programming should be on this list.

## Access Problems

- The class will not be accessible until the first day of the semester
- If you have just added the class, it may take a day or two to get your WebCT access set up.
- Email me at [tboegel@ccsf.edu](mailto:tboegel@ccsf.edu) if you have access issues

Now, a couple of notes about accessing the WebCT server. First off, the class will not be accessible until the first day of the semester. If you're trying this out during the registration period, you may not be able to log in to WebCT, or if you're able to log in, you might not see this course listed. Don't panic -- things will be ready by the first day of class.

If the semester has begun and I gave you an add code to add the class, it's going to take a couple of days after you process that add code to get you set up.

If you've got questions or problems, please send me an email. If you've forgotten your password, send me email. We'll get you set up.

## Main Menu

- Your gateway to the course content
- Look for announcements at bottom of page

CS 130A -- PHP Programming

Syllabus and Calendar    Lecture notes, Examples, and Experiments

Assignments    Quizzes

Discussions    Reference

My Grades    My Progress

Welcome to CS 130A!

Welcome to CS 130A, PHP Programming!  
Be sure to view the online orientation

Once you've logged into WebCT and selected this course, you'll get to the Main Menu of options for this course. This is your gateway to the course content. Please keep an eye on the bottom of this page, as I'll put relevant announcements there throughout the semester.

## Course Syllabus and Calendar

- Deadlines
- Grading Policy
- Final Exam

The first thing you'll want to read is the course syllabus and calendar. This orientation is going to go through some of the highlights about how this course is going to work, but the syllabus and calendar will go through this content in much more detail. There are some strict deadlines for assignments and quizzes in this course, and there is an in-person final exam. Please read the syllabus for more detail about this.

## Lecture Notes, Examples, and Experiments

- Read the "lecture notes"
- Examine the examples, try the experiments
- Do the assignment
- Take the quiz
- Mind the deadlines -- late submissions not accepted!

The bulk of the course content is in the "Lecture notes, examples, and experiments" section. Basically, the way you'll approach this course is like this: you'll start by reading a section of online material, trying out and studying the examples, and working with the online experiments. When you're done with this section, you'll do the assignment that relates to this section. Once you're done with the assignment, take the associated quiz. There are a total of 11 assignments and quizzes throughout the semester. All of the material for the semester is available from day 1, so you can go through as quickly as you'd like. Be sure to read the calendar to see the deadlines for assignments and quizzes. Late assignments and quizzes will not be accepted.

## Assignments

- Practice with different elements of PHP
- Must post content on our student web server, hills
- Submit source code via WebCT
- Assignments increase in difficulty as the semester progresses

Okay, a couple of words about the assignments. The assignments are designed to give you practice with different elements of PHP. You're going to post your results online using our student web server, hills. If you've never used hills or Unix before, don't worry -- there are some very explicit directions on how to post your content. If you have access to another web server that supports PHP, feel free to practice with that server, but you'll need to post your assignments on hills so that I can grade them. In addition to posting your content online you'll need to submit your source code via WebCT. Again, read the assignments carefully -- it's all explained for you. Finally, I'd like to note that the assignments increase in difficulty as the semester progresses. This is going to be especially true if you've had some previous programming experience. Don't wait until the day the assignment is due to start an assignment.

## Quizzes

- Best to do after having done the assignment
- Be sure to save your answer to each quiz question
- Submit quiz when you're done and you'll get instant feedback

As I've mentioned before, it's best to take the quiz after having completed the assignment. There's nothing in WebCT that will prevent you from doing this out of order, but the practice you'll get in doing the assignment will help out your quiz.

As you're taking a quiz in WebCT, you'll need to save each answer to the quiz as you progress through the questions.

## Assignment and Quiz 0

- Graded, but the grade doesn't count
- Make sure you've read syllabus and orientation materials

To get started in the class there's Assignment 0 and Quiz 0. These will be graded, but the grade won't count towards your final grade. These have two purposes -- one, to make sure that you've read the syllabus and orientation materials, and two, to get practice working with WebCT's assignment and quiz tools.

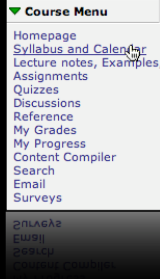
## Reference

- How to access our student web server, hills
- Accessing MySQL (later in the course)
- Other background information

Another section of course content that's accessible from the main menu is the reference section. There are a number of things linked from here, including instructions on how to access our student web server, hills, how to work with our MySQL server, and other background information.

## Course Menu

- Quick access to main menu elements
- Can also access email, content compiler, and search



At any point in time while you're looking at the course content, there is a course menu off on the left hand side of your screen. This course menu gives you quick access to all of the main menu elements. In addition, you can send me email through WebCT, participate in the discussion boards, and search through the course content. Finally, you can use the content compiler to create copies of the online content for offline viewing or printing.

## Final Notes

- In-person final exam!
- Previous programming experience very handy
- Email me with questions, or better yet, post questions to the course discussion boards
- Good luck!

To wrap up, let me point out a few final notes. First off, there is an in-person final exam for this course! Please read the online syllabus to find out the date, time, and location of this final exam. Second, while previous programming experience isn't required, it's very handy. If you're just looking for an introductory programming course, you might want to consider a different course. Third, if you have any questions about anything, feel free to send me email. Better yet, there are online discussion boards available through WebCT -- if your question is a general one, post it there. Thanks for taking this course -- good luck!