

# CS 350 Activities for Lecture 1

## Activity 1.1: Active Learning, Course Topics

### A. Why?

- We'll be using active methods throughout the semester, so we should practice them.

### B. Outcomes

At the end of this activity you should:

- Practice forming small groups, discussing questions, and forming answers.
- Have a list of topics you think this course might/should/could cover.
- Have a list of reasons why this course might help you someday (or could've helped in the past).

### C. Form Teams

- Get together in groups of four.
- Agree on someone to be the speaker for the group; the speaker will communicate with the instructor and the rest of the class.

### D. Questions

As a group, discuss the questions below. Write out your group's results so we can compare different groups' results. Note: Activities are not graded.

1. (Vocabulary Brainstorm) What words/phrases come to mind when you think of the topic "Computer Organization and Assembler Language Programming"?
2. From the list for Question 1, pick any or all of the words/phrases that you think we should or might want to cover in the course. Assign rough priorities if you like: High/medium/optional.)
3. List one or more situations you've been in where it would've been helpful to know more about some of the items in your list.

## Activity 1.2: What Do Computers Do?

### A. Why?

- Before studying how computers are organized, it might be good to know what they do!

### B. Outcomes

At the end of this activity you should:

- Have thought about what common features there are in the ways we use computers.

**C. Questions**

- As before, get together in groups of four and agree on someone to be the speaker. As a group, discuss the questions below; write out your group's results.
1. Name 5 concrete ways in which you use computers. Try to make them fairly general but also different — for example, “Writing documents” as opposed to “Writing term papers” and “Writing up homework.”
  2. Now look at the concrete ways from Question 1 and try to generalize them — for example, take two of the ways and try to come up with a more general description that includes both of them.