

Course Objectives:

- Students will be able to construct, modify, and traverse dynamic data structures (e.g., linked lists, trees, and networks) used to represent underlying structure of media (e.g., a network of musical elements traversed to generate a song, or a tree of graphical objects which are traversed to redraw a scene).
- Students will use CRC Cards to analyze situations and design objects for simulating those systems.
- Students will be able to explain the elements of a discrete event simulation.
- Students will be able to explain alternative implementations of an event queue in a discrete event simulation.
- Students will be able to implement an event queue using at least two kinds of sorting mechanisms and explain the tradeoffs of each, including the algorithmic complexity (big Oh) of each.
- Students will be able to implement simple graphical user interfaces using windows, buttons, text areas, and list boxes.

Topical Outline:

1. Introduction to Java from Python: Basic operations (looping, conditionals, assignment), and data types.
2. Media computation in Java: Manipulating pictures, sounds, and text using Java.
3. Object-oriented programming in Java: Classes, instances, and methods.
4. Creating dynamic data structures: Linked lists.
Students will create, insert, and remove elements of a linked list that represent sound or graphical elements, then replay or redraw by traversing those elements.
5. Creating dynamic data structures: Trees
Students will create, insert, restructure, and remove elements of a tree that represent sound or graphical elements, then replay or redraw by traversing (both breadth-first and depth-first) those elements.
Introduce graphical “layering” as differences in ordering of elements.
6. Extending from trees to networks (graphs) with introductions to their general characteristics (e.g., degrees-in and degrees-out, depth) and core algorithms.
7. Objects as representation of structure and behavior.
Modeling with objects.
Using object-oriented analysis with CRC Cards to identify structure and behavior of objects.
8. User interface elements as objects.
Creating and assembling user interfaces from windows, buttons, text areas, and lists.
9. Laying out user interfaces: Layout managers as manipulators of dynamic data structures.
10. Event processing: Connecting the user to the model objects through the user interface objects.
11. Introducing discrete event simulation.
Elements of a discrete event simulation: Events, event queues, actors, processes, and distributions.
12. Event queue processing: The heart of a discrete event simulation.
Distributions to create realism and complex behavior
13. Processing events in time order and priority order.
Forms of sorting to create a sorted list, with their algorithmic complexity.
14. Maintaining a sorted list of events through data structures (e.g., linked lists and trees).
15. Constructing discrete event simulations controlled from graphical user interfaces.