Administrivia

- One purpose of the syllabus is to spell out policies (next slides).

- Most information will be on the Web, on either my home page (office hours) or the course Web site (next slide).

  A request: If you spot something wrong with course material on the Web, please let me know!

Slide 1

Course Web Site

- "Course Web site" is meant to point you to pretty much all information for the course — readings, assignments, etc.

- You can find it via TLearn, or via the link from my home page (findable from the department's Web site, `http://www.cs.trinity.edu` or (probably?) by doing a Web search on my name).

Slide 2

What Is This Course About?

Slide 3

- It's an introductory course in programming, with a focus on problem-solving and logic. (It also includes an introduction to Linux and some of its command-line tools, though that's somewhat secondary.)

- "Programming" — ? solving problems with computers, which requires expressing ideas in a way the computer can understand.

Who Should Take This Course?

Slide 4

- Students majoring in Engineering Science who want to satisfy that department's requirement for knowledge of programming. Students in other majors should strongly consider taking CSCI 1320 (Principles of Computer Science I) or CSCI 1311 (Introduction to Programming Logic) instead.

  Note in particular that this course does *not* satisfy the prerequisite for other CSCI courses, so students who intend to take such courses should consider taking CSCI 1320 instead.

- No background in programming is assumed. Just be prepared to spend some time on homeworks: In the words of retired colleague Dr. Maury Eggen: Programming is not a spectator sport. (But it can be fun.)

Course FAQ

- "What will my grade be based on?" (See syllabus.)

- "When are the exams?" (See syllabus.)

- "What happens if I can't turn in work on time, or I miss a class?" (See syllabus.)

Slide 5

- "What's your policy on collaboration?" (See syllabus.)

Course FAQ, Continued

- "When is the next homework due?" (See "Lecture topics and assignments" page. Homeworks will be assigned at least a week before the due date; quizzes will also be announced about a week in advance.)

- "When are your office hours?" (See my home page.)

Slide 6

Note that part of my job is to answer your questions outside class, so if you need help, please ask! in person or by e-mail.

Classroom/Lab Machines

Slide 7

- Trinity's ITS department provides computing facilities for general use. We maintain our own set of computers tailored to the needs of our department (courses and research). Probably the easiest (though not the only) option for doing the assignments is to use these machines.

- To access these computers you need an "account" separate from your main Trinity account . . .

Classroom/Lab Machines, Continued

Slide 8

- Students who have previously taken a CSCI course should already have accounts set up. (If you've forgotten your password, go to the ITS help desk and ask for it to be reset, making it clear that this is for the CSCI/ENGR Linux machines.)

- Accounts will be set up for students who have not taken a CSCI course before. Username is the same as your Windows/ITS username; password will be sent to your Trinity e-mail address.

- We will start using these accounts in the next class, or as soon as they're available.

Classroom/Lab Machines, Continued

Slide 9

- Most of the department's computers live in three classrooms (CSI 257, CSI 388, CSI 488) and two labs (CSI 270A, CSI 270L). (The others are servers, in ITS's server room.)

  You will have physical access via your TigerCard (not today but soon) to at least some of these rooms any time the building is open.

- You can also access of these machines from other computers on campus (we will talk later about how), provided the computer you want to access is running Linux.

A Little About Me

Slide 10

- Short version of biography: Undergrad degrees from UT Austin, math and Plan II. More than ten years in what we now call IT. Back to school for master's and PhD in computer science. Two years as a postdoc, then at Trinity since Fall 1999.

- I teach a variety of courses, but currently focusing more on courses "close to the machine". My research area (sadly neglected for some years) is parallel computing.

- (What do I do for fun? well . . .)

Slide 11

Minute Essay

- (Most lectures will end with a "minute essay" — as a quick check on your understanding, a way for me to get some information, etc., and also to track attendance. Send me your answer by e-mail (no word-processor attachments please), and *please* put "minute essay" and the course in the Subject line.)

- Tell me about your background:

  - Exposure to programming in any form (including programming-like tools such as Matlab).

  - Exposure to a command-line environment.

  - Exposure to Linux.

  - Math courses for which you have credit.

- What are your goals for this course? Anything else you want to tell me?