

How to Master CS 5301

CS 5301
Fall 2016

Jill Seaman

1

How to master this class:

- prepare and practice each week!
- you can practice in the labs: DERR 231 and MCS 590 (eclipse)
- do some practice on paper, to prepare for quizzes
- in general, do NOT memorize code
- practice solving new problems
- come see me in office hours if you get stuck on a problem
- syntax is important!

2

Problem solving steps

- Understand the problem description
- Generate a hypothetical solution
 - Think in terms of steps computer must perform
- Encode the solution (write the C++ code)
- Check your work
 - Trace your code, go through it step by step, carry out the instructions to see if they will solve the problem (you must be able to read code)
 - Look for errors in your solution (incorrect syntax, missing or misplaced { }, undefined variables, etc).

3

Guidelines for the lab:

- Make a NEW project for each exercise.
- Use a different name for each project
- Use a different name for each .cpp file
- Use Linux GCC
- If you have errors: Save and Build!
- If your program execution does not terminate, you must click the red box. Otherwise your computer will SLOW DOWN.
- 'Launch failed: Binary not found': create a new project and source file under different names, copy over any existing code to the new source file, and delete the original project. If the problem persists, ask for help.

4