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[Gary's CSE 12](#)

Please use this discussion to share your memories of CSE 12.

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[Mabel Zhang](#)

People were always hungry.
There's always the smell of dinner, especially after the lecture, when everyone got up to get dinner to come back to the discussion.
Evil people.

over a year ago ·

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[Yixin Zhu](#)

are we ready? are we ready?

over a year ago ·

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Jason Noguchi

My favorite memory is when Gary's cell phone rang in the middle of lecture. This was the probably the only time it happened in the history of ever. I also have this vague memory of sitting through a lecture when The Killers were playing @ UCSD because finals were coming up.

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Gary's CSE 12

Tonight is my last CSE 12 lecture. After 45 quarters, CSE 12 as we know it comes to an end.
December 3, 2009 at 1:20pm

Gary Gillespie I've been teaching CSE 12 continuously since Spring 2000, and my first CSE 12 was in Summer 1994.
December 3, 2009 at 1:30pm

Stacie Buckingham Wow I can't believe you are done!!! Soo many great memories taking that class and tutoring :)
December 3, 2009 at 1:32pm

Brian Jong woow... that is amazing
December 3, 2009 at 1:38pm

Jack Nguy Wow! Really? What is happening to CSE 12?
December 3, 2009 at 1:49pm

Abbie Whynot what? whats going on?
December 3, 2009 at 2:05pm

Adnan Syed That's a sad day for UCSD students.
December 3, 2009 at 2:25pm

Macneil Shonle What's next?
December 3, 2009 at 2:28pm

Asif Chauhan why last?
December 3, 2009 at 2:29pm

Chris Roedel Oh my Gary!! What are you going to do with all the time you will have?
December 3, 2009 at 2:29pm

Chad Martin wow. its over?!? i can't believe it
December 3, 2009 at 3:17pm

Jor Amster teach CSE13?
December 3, 2009 at 3:19pm

Manik Singh Whatttt ??? Noo !! How is that possible? That's an iconic class !! Gary, I would like to congratulate you on a stupendous job and your contributions to San Diego's IT industry; your mentorship has been an unparalleled asset to all of us. Thanks for everything! SD is a better IT place because of you. Cheers !
December 3, 2009 at 4:25pm

Maytal Dahan Wow I am so proud to have been a teeny tiny part of that history. What's next?
December 3, 2009 at 6:18pm

Keith Lee I find your class the most instructive CSE I've taken yet and the most challenging. I had a positive experience.
December 3, 2009 at 8:07pm

DJ Capelis :\ I imagine this is a difficult ending, my thoughts are with you.
December 3, 2009 at 8:32pm

Gary Gillespie The CSE chair gave the directive that we've been teaching CSE the same way for the past 20 years, and so we need to change. All the classes were reviewed to introduce concepts from scratch. This review took place during most of last year. In reviewing CSE 12, it was found to be problematic in numerous ways. CSE 12 was problematic in that it took too much time for students outside of class. The revised class time is planned to be 6-8 hours a week outside of class rather than the current 10-12 or more hours per week. CSE 12 was problematic in that it stressed students even before students arrived, and less time spent would alleviate this problem. CSE 12 was problematic in that the concepts presented were too sophisticated for the freshman student in their second course in programming. This means that the new CSE 12 will only be in Java, no C, no C++, no pointers, no memory management, no implementation of binary trees or hash tables, no tree-on-disk. The new direction is also to rotate courses among different faculty with the idea that faculty teaching the same courses will coordinate on the content. Although I was initially scheduled to continue to teach CSE 12 in its new format, I was later told another faculty member would be the best one to make the changes. Another instructor will be teaching CSE 12 in Winter and Spring. I'll be teaching Tutor Training, and CSE 3 (Fluency in Information Technology) in Winter and Spring, and CSE 5A (Introduction to Programming in C) in Spring, both classes for non-major students. Some of the material from CSE 12 (implementation of hash tables and binary trees) will go into the revised CSE 100. The new CSE 100 is planned to be entirely in C++. Since all instructors hire their own tutors, the current team of 30 CSE 12 tutor team will be disbanded. A few tutors are continuing with me in CSE 3, and I've referred others in hopes of them being picked up by other instructors.
December 3, 2009 at 10:28pm

Tri Le CSE12 with Gary is unforgettable.
December 3, 2009 at 11:02pm

Sarang Ratanjee Agree with Tri, CSE 12 with Gary has made an unforgettable positive impact in my college career and life and I wouldn't be where I am today in school if not for Gary's guidance, thanks Gary!
December 3, 2009 at 11:26pm

Gary Gillespie I have been privileged to be at the helm of CSE 12 for so long. My life have been enriched through meeting so many incredible and amazing people along the way. Many of my interactions with students have been enormously fulfilling in that so many of you have responded by demonstrating that I have been spending this time in my life in a worthwhile way. I have countless cherished memories, and I have been forever changed by sharing in your dreams, your goals, your worthwhile pursuits. I've been delighted to be a part of the successes of so many.

I am always delighted when a voice from the past tells me about the positive effect CSE 12 has had on their lives and careers. I am always amazed at what has been possible due to our paths crossing.

When I started out teaching CSE 12, I wanted to create a class that provided students with the foundation they needed to succeed in their future. My desire wasn't so much to teach, but rather it was to prepare students for their future successes. I'm glad that so many of you shared in my vision, appreciate its value to your life, especially when you share those thoughts with me. 8-)

Please know that all the good feeling and support that you send my way, the feelings are mutual. You guys are awesome! (Any for most of you, we're probably overdue to get lunch and catch up!).
December 3, 2009 at 11:29pm

Edgardo Arroyo New students are going to miss out a great learning experience.
December 3, 2009 at 11:44pm

Ricky Shum I hope they revise a number of other classes to make up for the void that will be left behind by these drastic changes to CSE 12.

CSE 12 wasn't easy by any means but I undoubtedly learned a great deal from it.
December 4, 2009 at 12:44pm

Nadav Ben-Haim Gary,

congrats on the long reign of teaching CSE12. You have definitely prepared students well and your course was one of the reasons CSE is such a strong program at UCSD. It's very sad to hear that department bureaucrats have replaced standards with compassion yet again. The more the department heads in the direction of helping students feel good about themselves by giving them less demanding courses and easier programming languages (let's face it kids in middle school can program in Java), students will have a harder time applying their knowledge in the real world.

-Nadav

December 4, 2009 at 2:02pm

Maytal Dahan What a sad day. CSE12 was challenging but that is what made it so wonderful, you knew if you did well and excelled it gave such confidence in the ability to move forward. It was definitely one of the most enjoyable and challenging classes in the program. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors and I know your future students and TAs in any class you teach are lucky students.

December 5, 2009 at 1:59pm

Gary Gillespie Wow! I am amazed that the lessons of CSE 12 still resonate so strongly after so much time especially from those of you who completed CSE 12 so long ago!

I'll definitely miss teaching students to not keep a key when they sell the car, that clarity comes when the confusion is gone, and I'll especially miss feigning dismay when students don't know their ASCII sum when I ask them! 8-)

December 5, 2009 at 3:08pm

Angela Wang That's a damn shame, if I do say so myself. It was no cakewalk, but it was a great class because you were forced to learn all the basics, while still under the wings of really knowledgeable tutors. Now you might have an easier time in CSE 12, but it's going to be a lot harder in the later classes because there's less guidance. Not to mention, if it weren't for the days and nights spent in the lab, I sure wouldn't have made all the great friends I spent the next 4 years with and graduated with! Glad to see you are doing well, though. It looks like you've been able to invest more in yourself, which we could all use a little more of!

December 6, 2009 at 2:07pm

Elizabeth Munroe Hedstrom Sure, they can update the content for CSE12. Cool. Technology changes. Great. However the class content wasn't the real lesson students ultimately learn or what I learned. It's that in order to be successful in the CSE program at UCSD, we have to learn to sit with a problem for a bit. The assignments don't just solve themselves with a little effort on the last day. We have to learn to be creative, to try and fail and well, suffer a bit sometimes. Problem solving means fixing things that don't work correctly and being comfortable with that "broken" state because most of the time, the thing just doesn't work. And if it does work, it's on to the next problem. Another great lesson I learned was that when I worked with others in the lab, often times an actual human being will have the answer. Imagine that! ;-) I think students need to learn these lessons sooner rather than later in their studies so they have enough time to adjust and still graduate in a reasonable period of time. Gary, you taught more than just the class content! Thank you!!

December 7, 2009 at 7:19pm

Robbie Hinman Wow! An end of an era. What are they thinking? Make it easier on freshman!?! That wont make the coming CS pain any nicer. And of course you know how I feel about my CSE12 experience. But the spirit of cse12 will continue in whatever class comes next for you.

December 9, 2009 at 12:06am

Abtin Rostamian It's been about 9 years since I was last sitting as a humble student in your classroom and out of all the professors at UCSD, you still stand out as the most influential. You were one of the very few professors who genuinely loved to teach and cared deeply for the students. It's a testament to you that many years after leaving your classroom, people still come and post comments about their great CSE 12 memories and express their regards for you as not only an outstanding professor, but also as a great friend and mentor . If it was up to your former students, you'd be running the entire CSE department and would have a building named after you! Hope to meet up with you next time I'm in SD...

December 15, 2009 at 11:39am

about 5 months ago · [Delete Post](#)



[Cody Born](#)

How could I forget about CSE 12? After 2.5 years it's still one of my most memorable classes at UCSD! There's no other class that will keep you up as late nor give you the best sense of accomplishment.. Definitely a milestone in my CSE career!

about 5 months ago ·

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