Welcome to CS-214!

Modularity 🧩 Correctness ✅ Real-world engineering 🛠️

CS-214 Intro – 2025-09-08

Clément Pit-Claudel

WELCOME TO THE SWISSTECH CONVENTION CENTER

THIS COURSE IS BEING HELD IN A PRIVATE BUILDING. ONLY USE THE ENTRANCE AND FACILITIES CLEARLY INDICATED «COURS EPFL»

PLEASE DO NOT EAT OR DRINK IN THE AUDITORIUM – DON'T LEAVE YOUR WASTE

DON'T FORGET TO TAKE ALL YOUR BELONGINGS

SHOULD YOU FORGET SOMETHING, NOTE THAT THE «LOST & FOUND» IS LOCATED AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE AUDITORIUM

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION !

SwissTech
CONVENTION CENTER

Our staff

3 profs

Martin Odersky (LAMP)

Viktor Kunčak (LARA)

Clément Pit-Claudel (SYSTEMF)

4 doctoral assistants

Alex, Kacper, Kasia, Shardul

8 senior assistants

Arthur, Guillaume, Lina, Maël, Maï-Linh, Marcin, Rémy, Sidonie

10 junior assistants

Alessandro, Damien, Maëlys, Marvin, Matheo, Mathéo, Nathan, Théo, Valentin, Valuthy

Our infrastructure

Course website

- Syllabus
- Policies
- Lab & exercises
- Useful links

Submission platform (Moodle)

- Lab submissions
- Polls
- Exams

Course forum (Ed)

- *All* discussion
- (this includes private questions)

Our schedule

Meeting times

Lectures: Mondays* & Wednesdays

Help sessions: Wednesdays & Fridays

Take-home assignments

Exercises: Weekly

Labs: Weekly (due d+10)

In-class exams

Midterm 📝: Nov 5th 4-7PM (Wed)

Final 🖥️: January 2026

Exam lab 🖥️: Once, Wed 4-7PM

Course-quality polls

Monthly

This week

First poll

Tool setup + demo lab (out)

`find` lab: out Wednesday

A note about the workload

8 credits = 12–15h/w

Lectures

3 hours in class

+ 1 hour at home

Exercises (in groups!)

2 hours in help sessions

+ 1-2 hours at home

Labs (on your own)

3 hours in help sessions

+ 2-4 hours at home

No additional project

Some tips to be successful

Use your time wisely!

Start with exercises

- 3h exercises + 4h lab
  - ⋘ 1h exercises + 12h lab

Attend lectures in person

- Streaming is for sick days
- Recordings are for post-lecture study

Ask questions

- In person or on Ed

Don’t LLM

- Exams are offline 🙃

Study in groups

- Do exercises together
- Answer questions on Ed

Plan ahead

- Read the **syllabus**
- Make a deadlines calendar

Bookmark the syllabus!

https://cs-214.epfl.ch/info/syllabus/

Student feedback from previous years

“ Thinking about the exercises and labs on paper for a while before coding can really save a lot of time for some of them”

“ Have fun ! (No sarcasm)”

“ Start doing labs in advance, not one or two days before the deadline”

“ I was too proud to ask for help (wanting the satisfaction of finishing a lab all by myself, without tips), and I didn't profit from learning to debug as much as I could have.”

“ Have Fun and give the labs your all !”

“ See this class as different from the other programming classes you took, it is more about being a good programmer than about learning how to code in a language.”

“ The code in scala doesn't do weird things, you did weird code.”

“ Do not just try to get 100% on the labs, understand really what you do and why you do it.”

“ Take advantage of the support provided in learning how to debug more. I regret not using the debugging guide as much as I should have.”

“ Do the star exercices before starting the labs”

“ Follow the debugging advices”

“ Be curious”

TODO LIST FOR THE BREAK

- Check your registration
- Answer the starting poll!
- Read the course policies