About the Class: Goals

- The few, the proud, the parallel programmers
- This is a systems class, not a PL class
- Focus on understanding concurrency
  - Algorithmic thinking not algorithms
- Play with toys
  - Languages (MPI, concurrent Java, Hadoop!, Spark, CUDA, OpenMP)
  - Amazon Web Services
Format

- The 8 minute lecture
  - Educators like to blame it on the YouTube generation, but it’s always been true

- 3 or 4, 8 minute lectures on 15 minute intervals
  - Break time between
  - Chat with peers, read related material, talk to TAs/instructor, pee
Attendance

- Come if you want, when you want. Bring energy. Lectures are for you.
  - I would prefer that you leave, rather than sleep.
  - It hurts my feelings when nobody shows up.
- Lecture is where the good stuff happens.
  - I’ll try hard.
  - This is the best chance to wrestle with understanding the material
Registration

- We are oversubscribed (30 in 320, 43 in 420) with 86 on the waitlist
  - I’m stuck in this room, which caps us at 93

- Up to 20 spots available
  - Preference to CS graduates
  - Preference to students who were deferred from enrollment in Fall

- If you are waitlisted and want to take the course:
  - See instructions on Piazza about how to request admission
Assignments and Grades

- Two exams: midterm and final
- Four or five programming assignments: Threads, OpenMP, MPI, Hadoop, Spark, CUDA
  - Each about two weeks long
- Project for 420: of your choice

- I don’t grade according to a formula/curve
  - I build many metrics (tests only, projects only, weighted averages) and then use all plus side information to assign grades

- Refer to the course Web page