# Reading Response 4

Due IN CLASS Tuesday, 24 April

━━ Readings ━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━

Please read and write a short response to the following papers. Hand in the response *in class* on the due date. Responses need not be longer than one-half to three-quarters of a page. Your response should address the general questions asked below, as well as anything you found particularly interesting in the articles.

1. (*15 points*) ......................................................................... Java

- Read the paper "Java: an Overview", James Gosling, February 1995.
- Skim Chapters 2–4 of "The Java Language Environment" by James Gosling and Henry McGilton, May 1996. (You can find a copy online on the readings page).

Unlike our other papers, these readings at times seem more like marketing material than commentary on a programming language. Try to look beyond the hype to the underlying ideas. In particular, the authors discuss a number of new design criteria and features for Java that our other readings did not touch on. What are these, and why were they not present for other languages?

The first reading contains most of the important ideas and should give you a good feel for Java's goals. The second fills in some gaps and provides some interesting contrasts to other language designs.