

CSE 373 Syllabus

Contact Information

I am available in my office after class on Monday and Friday from 3:30-5:00. Additionally, I am able to make myself available for private meetings or at other times by email (ejmcc@cs). TA office hours are posted on the course website.

Piazza is an integral part of communication in this course between students and the course staff. Please check the page for questions, as many students have the same questions and answers can often be found there. Additionally, piazza will be the primary method of course-wide announcements.

Course overview

Lecture is held from 2:30 to 3:20 on MWF in Kane 220.

There will be no class on Friday, November 10, because of Veteran's Day and there will be no class on Friday November 24, because of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

This course focuses on a theoretical understanding of data structures and algorithms, but also tests your ability to implement these concepts as a part of larger code projects. Special focus will be dedicated to design decision making, so being able to justify your decisions is paramount.

Grade Breakdown

In this course, there will be 3 projects (with multiple parts) and two written assignments. Combined, they will be worth 40% of your course grade. The rest of your course grade will be combined of a midterm and a final exam. The midterm, scheduled for **Friday, November 3** will be worth 25% of your grade. The final, scheduled for **Tuesday, December 12** will be worth 35% of your final grade.

Grades will be made available through Canvas, and a petition for regrades is available on the course website.

Projects and Teams

The three programming assignments are separated into parts and may be completed in teams of two (but do not have to be). We strongly recommend completing these projects in pairs. Piazza provides a tool to help find partners and we recommend this as well. If you complete

the project in a pair, there will also be a small writeup required for each project. Projects have multiple checkpoints that come approximately once a week. For any points lost in a checkpoint, half of those points can be regained if the work is completed by the next checkpoint. For example, if you and your partner complete half of the work for a particular checkpoint on a project and receive a 50%, completing that portion by the next checkpoint would earn you a 75% retroactively. This does not require the use of a late-day. This does not apply to the final turn-in date for the project.

Extra Credit

Extra credit portions may be assigned from time to time. While I encourage all students to attempt any and all extra credit, understand that not completing extra credit will not harm your grade in any way. These assignments are opportunities for you to engage more heavily in material that interests you.

Late Policy

Each student will receive 3 late days that they can use on written assignments, checkpoints or projects. If a team submits a project late, both students will be deducted a late day. No more than 2 late days may be used on any assignment, project or checkpoint. There is no benefit to retaining checkpoints at the end of the quarter. If you have no late days left, you will receive 15% of the total score as a deduction for each day late. Whether using late days or taking the late penalty, no assignment will be accepted more than 3 days after the assignment is due.

Late days are deducted automatically, you cannot choose to take the 15% deduction if you have late days remaining.

Academic Honesty

I take academic honesty very seriously. Cheating not only deprives you of practice and understanding, but it is also unfair to the rest of your class. Any assignment that has copied or paraphrased solutions will receive a zero.

We do still encourage academic discussion between classmates. University policies clearly delineate acceptable and unacceptable behavior. As a rule-of-thumb, it is always acceptable to discuss clarifications or course material, but discussing or sharing solutions to problems is not allowed.

Getting Help

This course has many opportunities to get help if you find a problem challenging. Being productive with your time and work are important collegiate skills. Coming to office hours before starting a problem can be unproductive, but working on a problem after you've become stuck is even less so. If you fail to make any progress on a problem in 15 or 20 minutes, consider the following options.

- Check Piazza to see if other students have the same problem as you.
- Visit office hours to get help and clarification
- Talk with other students about relevant material
- Take a break, and return after your mind has relaxed.

Once you've become frustrated with a problem, it is difficult to make progress. Recognizing that you need help can be a difficult, but important step in your education. These assignments and projects are meant to test your understanding, they are not meant to be completed quickly and easily.