Welcome to CS 419 – Software Projects
My name is D. Kevin McGrath, an instructor here at Oregon State University.

General Overview of Course
This class is a group software project course. There is a single, term long project that will be completed.

Milestones along the way include

• A requirements document (due Wednesday of week 2)
• A design document (due Sunday of week 3)
• Weekly progress reports -- including week 6
• A midterm demo (due end of week 6)
• A final report and demo (due end of finals week)
• The final project (due end of finals week)

Every milestone except those due finals week are simply check/no-check. You turn it in, you get full credit. Feedback will be given on the design document. Weekly progress reports should not contain questions. Any questions should be sent directly and as a separate email.

Keys to success

• Students are expected to communicate with their groups
• Students are expected to always be making forward progress on their projects
• If something is unclear, please ASK QUESTIONS

What you can expect from the instructor

• Email will be read frequently during the week, and responded to as promptly as I am able
• Email will be read sparingly on weekends. Responses will be on Monday, unless it is urgent
• Assignments will be submitted via the TEACH website, and will be evaluated within 1 week of submission

Policies

• Please read the Core Rules of Netiquette, which we will follow in this course.
• Late work is not accepted in this course. All due dates are US Pacific Daylight Time (UTC-7).

Getting help

Contacting the instructor:

• Sending email is the best and the most preferred way to ask any question related to the course. If needed, we can use Adobe Connect for discussion.
• I will maintain virtual office hours based on student needs. We should discuss this early in the course.
• Class discussion will be through Piazza, accessible from the Class Discussion Page link in Blackboard.
Technical Assistance:

If you experience computer difficulties, need help downloading a browser or plug-in, assistance logging into the course, or if you experience any errors or problems while in your online course, contact the OSU Help Desk for assistance. You can call (541) 737-3474, email osuhelpdesk@oregonstate.edu or visit the OSU Computer Helpdesk online.

Tutoring:

Effective fall term 2009 we went to a new Online Tutoring Service - NetTutor to meet the needs of Ecampus students. NetTutor is a leading provider of online tutoring and learner support services fully staffed by experienced, trained and monitored tutors. Students connect to live tutors from any computer that has Internet access. NetTutor provides a virtual whiteboard that allows tutors and students to work on problems in a real time environment. They also have an online writing lab where tutors critique and return essays within 24 to 48 hours.

Getting started

When you finish reading this Read Me First document, read and become familiar with the Syllabus.