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 – the what (due Wednesday of week 2)
- A design document – the how (due Sunday of week 3)
- Weekly progress reports -- including week 7
- A midterm demo (due end of week 7)
- A final report (due end of finals week)
- The final project (due end of finals week)

Every milestone except the midterm demo and those due finals week are simply check/no-check. You turn it in, you get full credit. Feedback will be given on request. 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 make design decisions as needed regarding the functionality of their projects.
- Students are expected to always be making forward progress on their projects
- As a rule, feedback will not be given unsolicited, unless some problem makes itself apparent. In other words, no news is good news.
- You will get out of this class what you put into it. If you put in the bare minimum to get through and meet the requirements, then you will get very little out of the class.
- 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. Submission is to be treated as graded unless stated otherwise. As mentioned above, feedback will be made on-demand. As a rule, if you turned it in, you got credit, and you should be moving on.

Policies

- 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.
- While there is no discussion board set up for this class, you are encouraged to talk to each other. While you are all doing the same project, the odds are not high that you are doing it in the same way.

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.

Getting started

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