Course: CS419 - Software Projects

Instructor: D. Kevin McGrath
Instructor email: dmcgrath@eecs.oregonstate.edu

Email Information:

Any and all emails sent to me about this course must originate from an OSU supplied email address and contain the tag [CS419-400-W15] as the beginning of the subject. Failure to comply with this will result in a delayed (if any) response to your email. Given the project you are doing this term, you will soon understand why this is the case.

Course Description:

This course is made up of a single term long software project. Groups will be assigned, and will be spend the term designing and implementing said project.

Groups:

This course is a group project based course. Groups will consist of 3-4 members. Each group must select a single group coordinator, which will be the sole point of contact for all group related communications from the instructor. Other roles may be assigned as necessary by the group.

Evaluation of Student Performance:

- Requirements document: 10%
- Design Document: 10%
- Weekly progress reports: 10%
- Midterm demo: 20%
- Final submission of project: 20%
- Group evaluations: 10%
- Final report and demo: 20%

Requirements document:

This will be due Wednesday of week 2, and will be your interpretation of what is required to complete the project.

Design document:

This will be due the Sunday of week 3. This document should contain your entire design, as well as a timeline with milestones.

Weekly progress reports:

Due Sunday night of each week starting week 4, these will contain 3 specific sections:

- Progress during the past week.
- Plans for the upcoming week.
- Any problems you encountered during the past week.

These progress reports will be emailed to the instructor.
Midterm demo:

Your midterm progress report will be during week 6, and will a group video. At this point, you will demonstrate your progress to date. Any functional code, screen mockups, etc. will be shown during this demo. You are certainly not expected to have a functional product at this point, it is simply a way to determine where you are, a chance offer advice on how to move forward, and a checkpoint in your progress.

Final report and demo:

Your final report is a written document detailing your project, including changes to your design, problems you overcame, a group evaluation, and any other interesting project related details you want to include. Specific format guidelines and requirements will be posted during week 8.

Final grade assignment:

There will be no curve given in this course, though individual assignments will be considered for curving. The grading scale is as follows:

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\begin{align*}
90 \leq & \ A \leq 100 \\
80 \leq & \ B < 90 \\
70 \leq & \ C < 80 \\
60 \leq & \ D < 70 \\
0 & \leq \ F < 60
\end{align*}
\]

Accommodations:

Students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations, who have any emergency medical information the instructor should be aware of, or who need special arrangements in the event of evacuation, should make an appointment with the instructor as early as possible, and no later than the first week of the term. Class materials will be made available in accessible format upon request.

Academic Honesty:

See University and college policies.

Groups are expected to be the sole source of their code. Programming assignments present unique challenges for graders. It is often difficult for a grader to distinguish between legitimate help and plagiarism. Therefore, it is sometimes possible to get a good score without really understanding what you have handed in.

Honesty is absolutely essential in order for learning to take place. It will form the foundation of your professional integrity in your career.

If you are having trouble with an assignment, you are encouraged to discuss it with other students, TAs, the instructor, or anyone else who will listen, but don't just have someone else tell you how to solve the problem! If other students ask you for help, don't just let them copy your work! It is possible to discuss problems without plagiarizing. One of the best methods of debugging is to explain your solution to someone else.

If you get help from, give help to, or work together with someone, you must (in the program header block) list that person as a collaborator and describe the help. Programs that are very similar will be subjected to review unless both programs indicate that they were produced collaboratively. If you get help from printed or online sources, you must cite your references.
If you are found in violation of any of the above policies, whether you are the giver or receiver of help, you will receive a zero on the assignment or fail the course (Instructor's discretion). The academic dishonesty charge will be documented and sent to your school's dean and the Office of Student Conduct. The first offense results in a warning; the second offense results in an academic dishonesty charge on your transcript, a disciplinary hearing, and possible expulsion.

The bottom line is: Each student is expected to understand all aspects of the programs s/he submits for credit.

**Student conduction and communications:**

**Conduct in this online classroom:**

Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g., on discussion boards, email postings) in compliance with the university's regulations regarding civility. Students will be expected to treat all others with the same respect as they would want afforded themselves. Disrespectful behavior to others (such as harassing behavior, personal insults, inappropriate language) or disruptive behaviors in the course (such as persistent and unreasonable demands for time and attention both in and out of the classroom) is unacceptable and can result in sanctions as defined by Oregon Administrative Rules Division 015 Student Conduct Regulations.

**Ground Rules for Online Communication & Participation:**

- *Online threaded discussions* are public messages, and all writings in this area will be viewable by the entire class or assigned group members. If you prefer that only the instructor sees your communication, send it to me by email, and be sure to identify yourself and the class.
- Posting of personal information is discouraged.
- *Online instructor response policy:* I will check email frequently, and will endeavor to respond to all emails within 24 hours during the week. Weekends are often without email access, so please do not rely on responses during the weekend.
- Please observe common netiquette rules. Please be tactful, fair, and honest. Spelling and grammar are absolutely important in an online class, where communication is mostly facilitated by written discourse.
- Please check announcements and course syllabus prior to asking class administrative questions.

**Guidelines for a productive and effective online classroom:**

- The discussion board is your space to interact with your colleagues related to current topics or responses to your colleague's statements. It is expected that each student will participate in a mature and respectful fashion.
- Participate actively in the discussions, having completed the readings and thought about the issues.
- Pay close attention to what your classmates write in their online comments. Ask clarifying questions, when appropriate. These questions are meant to probe and shed new light, not to minimize or devalue comments.
- Think through and reread your comments before you post them.
- Assume the best of others in the class and expect the best from them.
- Value the diversity of the class. Recognize and value the experiences, abilities, and knowledge each person brings to class.
- Disagree with ideas, but do not make personal attacks. Do not demean or embarrass others. Do not make sexist, racist, homophobic, or victim-blaming comments at all.
- Be open to be challenged or confronted on your ideas or prejudices.

**Student Assistance:**
Contacting the instructor:

- Sending email is the best, only, and the most preferred way to ask any question related to the course. If needed, we can use Adobe Connect for discussion.

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.