CSCI 4061: Course Mechanics

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Overview of Mechanics: Syllabus has Details

Canvas Homepage
Links to course schedule, staff contact, setup guide, surveys, etc.

Lecture: Zoom
- ▶ 2x per week, 1h15m
- ▶ Chat, Exercises/Breakouts
- ▶ Recorded for later review
- ▶ Earn Bonus Engagement Points
- ▶ 2 Exams and a Final

Assignments: Gradescope
- ▶ Weekly HW + Lab Exercises, collaborate freely
- ▶ Programming Projects: 3 planned, larger programs demonstrating course concepts, **pair work**

Engagement Points
Earned in Labs, Lecture, on Piazza, worth 1% per point, 10% overall
Submitting Projects Late costs Engagement Points

Labs, 50min, Mon, Discord
Show up to earn Engagement Pts via short activities, get help on assignments

Office Hours Discord
Find the "Office Hours" area, write question in the #queue, enter "Waiting Room", get help

Piazza Discussion board
Async Questions/Answers, Students ask, Staff Answer
Students answering other Students earns Engagement Points

Discord for Labs and Office Hours

First meetings are **Labs on Mon 1/25 on Discord**

▶ Labs will be administered on **Discord**, a communication platform with text, audio, and video options

▶ **Download Discord Desktop Software to fully participate in Lab**

▶ Find our Discord "Guild" Invite link on Canvas Front Page: CSCI 4061 S21

▶ At lab Staff give a short intro then students **work in groups** to solve exercises; Staff give help as needed

▶ Students can ask questions, get help synchronously

▶ Get Credit for lab by submitting completed work to Gradescope: can submit as a group

Tour Discord and Gradescope

Lab01 and Programming Environment

- ▶ Lab01 is designed to make sure that you are set up to program for the course
- ▶ See the course tutorial/guide "Accessing Unix/Linux Programming Environments" to configure your personal environment
- ▶ Make sure to **ask for help during lab** if you feel lost. We have *awesome TAs this semester* who are here to get you over hurdles.

To be ready for Lab01, it is a good idea to

1. Look at the Environment Setup Guide: https://www-users.cs.umn.edu/~kauffman/tutorials/unix-environment.html

2. Install the Discord stand-alone application https://discord.com/

Lectures and Zoom

- Lectures will take place on Zoom
- Link to Zoom Location is on Canvas Hompeage
- During Lecture, Kauffman will have **Exercises**
- Move students into breakout rooms for a few minutes
- On returning, discuss answers with 1-2 breakout rooms
- Showing effort earns **Bonus Engagement Points** for those in breakout room
- Students are encouraged to ask questions when prompted
- Lectures are recorded and posted for students that can't make it to the synchronous meeting

Communication

Piazza: Discussion Board

- ▶ Project and Lab discussion
- ▶ Questions about programming
- ▶ Announcements from Staff
- ▶ Read the Etiquette Post so you can post Answerable Questions

Email for

- ▶ Appointments outside of office hours
- ▶ Personal emergencies/problems

Gradescope

- ▶ Take Lab and HW quizzes
- ▶ Submit Projects
- ▶ Take Exams
- ▶ Request Regrades on submitted work

Discord

- ▶ Attend Labs and Office Hours
- ▶ Ask semi-sync questions during those times
- ▶ Use the "#Help-Queues" to "get in line"

Reading

Advanced Programming in the UNIX Environment, 3rd Ed

- ▶ Author: Stevens and Rago
- ▶ **REQUIRED**: it's an *excellent* text which will serve you well (if you read it)

Optional Texts

- ▶ *UNIX systems programming : communication, concurrency, and threads* by Robbins and Robbins
- ▶ *Operating System Concepts, 9th Edition* by Silberschatz et al.

C Programming

- ▶ Likely you'll want to do some reading on C programming to supplement in-class discussion
- ▶ *C Programming Language* 2nd Ed by Kernighan and Ritchie
- ▶ Free web resources on C programming posted on the front page of Canvas

Course Syllabus

Linked from Canvas Homepage

- ▶ General Course Structure
- ▶ Grading Breakdown / Grade Boundaries
- ▶ Late Submission Policies
    - ▶ Labs / HWs: No late submissions
    - ▶ Projects: up to 2 days late, 1 Engagement Point per day
- ▶ Academic Integrity Policies

Prime Directive

PRIME DIRECTIVE: Be able to explain your own work including homework code and exam solutions. The work you submit should be the product of your own effort and reflect your personal understanding.

Follow this because...

> ... I can say that at my workplace I've seen more than one freshout who clearly hadn't made it through college without significant assistance from Stack Overflow and other people's blogs. None of them lasted very long. Perhaps knowing how to solve problems for yourself isn't necessary to get a college degree nowadays, but it's surprising how useful it can be in **a career where you solve problems for a living.**
>
> – *bunderbunder, discussing using StackOverflow to cheat*

Expectations

Kauffman can

- ▶ Provide guidance, entertainment, information, challenge
- ▶ Will do all of those in lecture, office hours, assignments, exams

Kauffman cannot

- ▶ Force you to pay attention, do your HW, attend labs, read, ask when you don't know, practice, learn.
- ▶ Cannot force you to **CARE**, the critical factor in any endeavor.
- ▶ Caring leads to effort. Effort leads to improvement. Constant improvement leads to success.
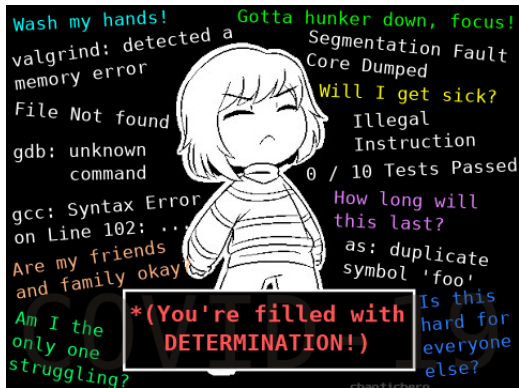
Kauffman's Expectation

- ▶ You care at least a little bit and will cultivate an attitude of curiosity and engagement
- ▶ You will put some effort into our time together as I have

We Live in Interesting Times

- I expect many of you are struggling at the moment with one of the many hurdles and injustices of our time
- I cannot fix many of these but I can work to make your experience in this class as informative and equitable as possible
- If you struggle with outside factors during the class like sickness, family difficulties, social unrest, or other dangers, then let me know and we can work something out
- This course moves pretty fast and covers a lot of ground so do your best to keep up: if you fall behind, get in touch with me as soon as possible to figure out how to make up ground

Don't Give Up, Stay Determined!

Students have different experience levels. Some have lots and make things look easy. For others, everything is new and intimidating. No one knows all of this stuff. Everyone struggles at some point. Get help from the staff. Support each other. Your peers will remember when you help them move forward and when you try to hold them back.

Respect and learn from one another.