

Lecture 0: Introduction to the Course

CPEN322 - Building Modern Web Applications - Term 1 2021

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Electrical and
Computer
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Instructor: Karthik Pattabiraman



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- Professor at UBC, ECE
 - PhD from UIUC (2008)
 - Post-doc at Microsoft Research (2009)
 - Faculty member at UBC (since 2010)
 - Sixth time I'm offering this course - also created it
- Research
 - Internet Of Things (IoT)
 - Security and Reliability
 - Error Resilient Systems
 - Software Engineering

Course TAs:



- Pritam Dash
 - PhD student
- Kumseok Jung
 - PhD student
- Abraham Chan
 - PhD student
- Ali Asgari
 - Masters student

For any question about the assignments, please ask the TAs.

- Questions about assignments should be asked on Piazza only
- For private matters, write a private message to “Instructors” on Piazza.
- No questions will be answered **48 hours** before deadline
- **No Email whatsoever - we'll ignore all email messages**

What's this course about?



- **Core principles** behind building modern web applications
- Abstractions and design principles
- Application of technologies such as CSS, HTML, JavaScript, node.js to the above

What's it not about ?



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→ core concepts → learn any technology

- Learning of specific technologies
 - These will most likely get outdated by the time you finish
 - Fast changing field, so new technologies tomorrow
 - Can learn any technology if you understand the principles and concepts behind web development
- Frameworks or libraries (e.g., React)
 - These are built on the principles and concepts
 - Too many to cover in a reasonable time

Why take this course ?



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- You will understand the **principles** behind web application development
 - Not simply copy-paste code from websites to string together a web application
 - You will understand **why** technologies are the way they are, rather than accept it as a statement of fact, and perhaps change them if needed
 - It enables you to design novel techniques and technologies in the web application space
 - If you put in the effort, this course will be really fun! :-)

Why not to take this course ?



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- You just want to write a (lot of) web code
 - Online tutorials will teach you how to do this
 - While you'll do a series of programming assignments, their focus is to teach you the principles
- You want to impress your future employer with cool-sounding buzzwords
 - There won't be many of these unfortunately
- You want an **easy** final year elective course
 - This course will require significant work. It will not be easy.

Pre-requisites



- EECE 210 or equivalent (e.g., CPSC 210)
 - Principles of software development
 - Knowledge of invariants, specifications etc.
 - Experience using at least one OOP language (e.g., Java)
- Maturity to tackle large software development tasks
- No Web programming/JavaScript experience is needed
 - However, you should be able to pick it up quickly
 - Invest considerable time **outside** of class in learning JavaScript

Grading



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- Assignments (40%): Five programming assignments worth 8% each, building on each other.
- Exams and quizzes (50%): One Midterm (13%) and a final exam (25%); Quizzes (12%)
- Class participation (5%): Asking and answering questions on Piazza. NOTE: Quality more important than quantity.
- JavaScript Proficiency quiz (5%): Test you on the basics of JavaScript (online)

Lectures



- Delivered by Karthik as asynchronous videos - released every week on Tuesdays
- Weekly quizzes will test knowledge of material in the videos (due most Mondays)
- Problem solving sessions held every Tuesday and Thursday during class time (**in person**)
- Attendance is non-mandatory at synchronous sessions; but exam questions will be similar to these
- Will release both the problems and their solution on Github and Piazza, but no recordings of sessions
- ~~● You'll attend only one of the Tuesday or Thursday sessions each week depending on your student no.~~

Reference Books (non-mandatory)



- ① “Eloquent JavaScript: A Modern Introduction to Programming” by Marijn Haverbeke
- ② “JavaScript: The Good Parts” by Douglas Crockford (highly recommended)
- ③ “Programming JavaScript Applications: Robust Web Architecture with Node, HTML5, and Moderns JS Libraries” by Eric Elliott
- ④ “Effective JavaScript: 68 Specific Ways to Harness the Power of JavaScript” David Herman
- ⑤ “JavaScript: The Definitive Guide” by David Flanagan
- ⑥ “Secrets of the JavaScript Ninja” by John Resig, Second Edition (highly recommended)

Assignments



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- Five Assignments where you'll build a complete web application from scratch (i.e., chat server and client)
 - Assignments build cumulatively on each other. Missing even one lab means you'll lose big !
 - Solutions will not be provided for any of the assignments
 - To be done individually; No collaboration allowed (even for ideas)
 - Submission via Github (later) - physical presence not needed

Exams & Quizzes



- One mid-term exam and one final exam (cumulative).
Distribution is as follows:
 - Midterm: 13% (November 2nd)
 - Final exam: 25% (in December)
 - Quizzes every week: 12%

Exams and Quizzes are open-book, open notes. But collaboration is strictly prohibited.

Piazza and Class Participation



- We will use Piazza for all course-related communication
 - Do NOT email teaching staff (unless it's an emergency)
 - Use private posts for personal situations
 - Use appropriate tags for your posts
- You will receive class participation points for asking good questions and answering questions on Piazza
- **Class participation:** Counts for 5% of the course grade - based on Piazza alone
- Complete survey of Piazza names on Canvas by Sept 21st - graded for 1 point

Lab Information



- Labs are NOT needed, as all assignment submission and grading will be done offline
- You need to register for a Github account if you don't have one already (survey on Canvas)
- Lab times may be used by us to ask you questions on the assignment submissions
- All questions about assignments must be asked on Piazza, NOT in Karthik's office hours
- Labs are **the only way to get one-on-one assignment help** from the TAs (in person)

Programming Proficiency Quiz



- Will test you on basics of JavaScript (Sep 21st): Self-study
 - 5 programming problems of 1 mark each - no partial credit will be given
 - Needs to pass provided **all** test cases for each program. No partial credits.
 - To be taken during the class time on Sep 21st on HackerRank
 - Start preparing for the test now. Will release practice test by today.
 - We don't care about code quality. Instantaneous feedback.

Web Developer Tools & Editor

- Your favorite web browser + built-in web dev tools
 - Chrome with DevTools
 - Firebug (also include some great web development tools!)
- Node.js (latest version)
- The text editor of your choice :-)
 - **VsCode (recommended)**
 - Atom, Sublime etc.
 - Notepad++
 - Vim/Emacs
- IDEs can be used for Web Development

Additional Tools to be installed

- Git client
- (Optional): GitHub Desktop Client for Windows/Mac
- Npm (later in the course)
- MongoDB (later in the course)

Final Thoughts



- Do you really want to take this course ?
 - Involves significant amount of work and time
 - Easier electives are available in your final year
 - Requires
- If you're staying, welcome on board !
 - This is the seventh time this course is being offered (sixth time I'm offering it)
 - Significant changes this time based on feedback from previous years
 - So please feel free to give us suggestions for improvement (these are actively encouraged)
 - Tell us what you liked and what you didn't like - we've incorporated past suggestions.

To do by Next Week



Immediate Action Items

- Complete Piazza survey on Canvas
- Watch the recorded video and take the first quiz
- Create Github account and share username with us on Canvas
- If you are not familiar with JavaScript yet, start learning it asap
 - Programming proficiency quiz on Sep 21st
 - We'll post a sample quiz and solutions by later today