

Syllabus

Table of contents

1 Classroom expectations

1.1 What you can expect from me

- I will stay home if I am feeling sick and make arrangements to deliver the course material
- I will work with you to arrange accommodations when you need them
- I will respect your time by starting and ending class on time
- I will answer your questions thoughtfully, and if I don't know the answer, I will follow up in a timely manner
- I will embrace who you are as whole people
- I will model respect, openness, and engagement, and foster a supportive and inclusive environment
- I will be honest when I make mistakes, because failure is part of growing

1.2 What I expect from you

- That you will stay home if you are sick and contact me via email to arrange accommodations
- That you genuinely attempt to engage with the course
- That you ask questions if you are confused (you may do this privately – there is no obligation to ask during class hours)
- That you communicate with me when you have problems that interfere with your ability to engage with the coursework
- That you treat your peers with respect and openness, and that you participate in creating an inclusive, supportive, and engaged classroom

1.3 What is not expected

- Perfection. Ever. It's a myth.
- That you will 'sit still' or ask for permission to leave the classroom to go to the bathroom or if you just need a minute.
- That everyone will learn in the same way. You do not have to match some "model student" to do well in this class

2 Team-Based Learning

I am using a variation of team-based learning for this class, in order to cultivate a community-minded classroom, encourage a growth mindset, and build group work skills. Here is how this will work:

We will have three modules, and you will work in a team of 4-5 students for each module. Your team will work on problems in class, discuss the content, and turn in a weekly problem that you solve together. At the end of each module, you will provide feedback on your teammates and on your own work, and then we will shuffle the groups, so you will have three different teams over the course of the semester.

Not all of the work will be in groups. You will also have individual quizzes and homework. You can work with other students on your homework, but you must submit and self-assess your own homework.

I have tried to balance the class so that there is a mix of individual and group work, which I hope will allow everyone to get something meaningful out of the course.

3 Assignments and Grading

Assignments fall into "bundles," which contribute to your grade in specific ways. Your performance on each bundle determines your rough letter grade (full letters). Beyond that, you can achieve grade boosts, which round your grade up, e.g. from a B to a B+, or a B+ to an A-.

You can learn more about each bundle below:

PCQs

WHWs

Group problems

Weekly quizzes

Community engagement