CSCI 49900-01 Syllabus

Hunter College, Fall 2025
Instructor: Sadab Hafiz
TueThu 05:30pm — 07:20pm ET
Location: Online (Brightspace and Zoom)
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1   Course Objectives

This course serves as an opportunity for Computer Science majors to use their skills to build a major software engineering project in small groups. In addition to the idea and the design, teams will implement their software programs, aiming to learn new and trending tools. Students will demonstrate what they have learned as CS majors and aim to pick up new skills as they work collaboratively with their teammates.

2   Learning Goals

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to do the following:

1. Able to brainstorm an idea to implement using Computer Science tools.

2. Able to pitch an idea to a Computer Science audience.

3. Work with a team of developers and build a Computer Science project.

4. Research and learn new Computer Science tools as necessary.

5. Using version control tools such as Git and GitHub to collaborate with other developers.

6. Present weekly development progress in an organized, neat and informative manner.

3   Grade Distribution

Each team will get a team grade, which will be used along with teammate ratings and my own observations in individual contributions to calculate individual final grades. If you are not satisfied with your individual grade, you will have the opportunity to contact me where we can share our grievances.

Weekly Presentations	40%
Final Project	20%
Final Presentation	15%
Midterm Presentation	10%
Participation	5%
Project Idea Pitch	5%
Documentation and Codebase	5%

Additionally, a 5% extra credit will be awarded to your final project grade for successful deployment of the projects to make them publicly available. For example, deploying web apps via Vercel or any other service, publishing mobile apps on App Store, publishing games on Itch.io, etc.

4   Course Materials

You are required to have a microphone for all presentations. In addition, you will require a webcam for the major presentations: idea-pitch, midterm and final. Announcements, additional resources and content will be shared via Brightspace. Classes and online office-hours will be held through Zoom. I encourage students to share helpful resources they find with their teammates and the whole class where applicable. This will be done via Brightspace discussion board. Depending on individual projects, teams may decide to use tools that they research to learn what they want to learn. While teams are required to do their own research, I will provide guidance if necessary.

5　Lateness and Absence

Manage your time wisely and avoid procrastination. I understand that things happen in life unexpectedly, which is why you should contact me and let me know ahead of time if something goes wrong. I will make exceptions where necessary but don't count on it. Missing presentations can't be made up and will result in a penalty in your participation grade. Furthermore, lack of contribution in addition to an absence will result in penalties for the presentation. This penalty can be avoided if your teammates can vouch for your work and explain it on your behalf. There will be very insignificant consequences for an excused absence. An excused absence is an absence **that is communicated to me clearly at least a day before the missed date and it is not a frequent occurrence**. However, Midterm and final presentations can't be made up. Make sure not to miss them. Late work will not be accepted. Make sure to turn in your work in a timely manner. I am generally lenient with lateness since I see your work during the presentations. In most cases, I will give you a reminder to submit the slides if they are missing when I am grading your work.

6　Office-Hours

I will hold office-hours by appointment as necessary. Scheduling details will be shared and updated as necessary. Some class days are scheduled to be office-hours. Attendance in these online office-hours is completely optional, but class time should be treated as time to collaborate with your groups.

7　Project Idea

The project idea should be something that is not done thousands of times already. For example, I don't want to see another e-commerce YouTube tutorial project. Additionally, this project should not be something you have done and finished already. All teams will start from scratch. This project can potentially end up in your resume, so think what you want to make. Don't let the technology hold you back while coming up with an idea. Your idea should not be too simple or too complex. It should be just right for your team size and the time that we have this semester. While it is possible that you will end up polishing your project after the semester ends, I want to see a working MVP during the final presentation. The first few weeks will be spent polishing this idea and selecting tools for the project. Once I approve your idea, you can start working on it. There are some restrictions to the tools that you are allowed to use and I will clarify this during the first few classes.

8　Participation

Participation includes attendance and completion of surveys. While attendance as part of the grade is frowned upon, it is reasonable for this class considering a lot of days are optional office-hours. Participation applies to individual grades. You are required to stay for the entire duration of the class for the first half of the semester. Students are to observe the presentations of the other groups. You will be allowed to ask questions and add suggestions. The goal is to learn from each other. For the later half, staying for all presentations will be optional. However, you are encouraged to stay and see what other groups are working on.

9　GitHub

In order for me to judge your codebase, it is a requirement that you host your code on an online code hosting platform. We will use GitHub for code sharing. If you plan to use anything else, you should let me know as soon as possible. However, I think using GitHub is the best since it is pretty standard in the industry. Your codebase will be judged based on a proper "Read me" document, code documentation, standard coding practices, file organization, and proper GitHub practices. The "Read me" should at least explain your project idea, tools used, and demo or link to deployed project. Proper GitHub practices include meaningful commits with proper consistent commit messages, use of feature branch, code reviews and existence of a git ignore file. Make your repository public so that I can grade your weekly progress after each weekly presentation.

10　Generative AI Policy

I encourage the use of generative AI such as GPT if it helps you learn a new tool. However, blatant copying and pasting of code is not acceptable. You can use generative AI to help you learn certain tools, but you should

not use it to do the entire project for you. If you are able to do your project with a few generative AI prompts, it most likely is not a good project idea, and you should revise the idea to make it a bit more complex.

11 Academic Integrity

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures." URL: https://hunter.cuny.edu/center-for-online-learning/online-learning-resources/academic-integrity-policy/. Any use of generative AI tools must be in line with the usage policy for specific assignments as defined in the course of the syllabus and/or communicated by the course instructor.

12 Anti-harassment Statement

Bullying, cyberbullying, online hate, intimidation, threats, harassment, and pressure to share schoolwork are all forms of violence. CUNY holds a zero tolerance stance towards all such acts. The University is committed to prevention of any form of bullying, will respond promptly to threats and/or acts, and will protect victims of bullying from retaliation. As a criminal matter, the New York Attorney General defines cyberbullying as the use of email, websites, instant messaging, chat rooms, text messaging and digital cameras to antagonize and intimidate others. Disrupting a teleconferencing platform (such as Zoom/Skype/Blackboard Collaborate Ultra) is a federal crime.

13 ADA Compliance

In compliance with the ADA and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational access and accommodations for all its registered students. Hunter College's students with disabilities and medical conditions are encouraged to register with the Office of AccessABILITY for assistance and accommodation. For information and appointment contact the Office of AccessABILITY located in Room E1214 or call (212) 772-4857 /or VRS (646) 755-3129.

14 CUNY Policy on Sexual-Misconduct

In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College reaffirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationships. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

1. Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, or contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444).

2. All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-650-3262) or Colleen Barry (colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct Link: http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/la/Policy-on-SexualMisconduct-12-1-14-with-links.pdf.

15 Update and Change Policy

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.