

COMP 303

Winter 2025

Milestone 1.5

Posted: Tuesday, February 11th

Due: Tuesday, February 18th by 11:59 p.m.

Introduction

This milestone is to be done **individually** (not with your team).

You will review the project proposals of four other teams in the class. You will be graded on each review, and the best three of four reviews will count towards your final grade. This milestone is worth 4% of your final grade in total.

Your reviews are an opportunity to engage with your peers' creative ideas and help elevate the quality of projects across the class. Please think of this assessment not as a slog through the mud, but instead as a collaborative learning exercise where constructive, positive feedback will help people!!

Here are three key points about the reviews:

- **Each review you write should be in a separate PDF file, and must use [this Google Doc](#) as a template.** Make a copy of the document and save it in your own google drive (or download it), then fill it out. Make sure to answer all questions. Please keep our TAs happy by not changing the template :)

- **Regarding plagiarism and LLM (large language model) usage**

Reviews must reflect your own original analysis. While you may use ChatGPT or other LLMs to edit your text or verify its syntax or grammar, you may not use it to come up with ideas for you. Part of the reason we are asking you to do these reviews is to engage yourself in the critical thinking process. Don't cheat yourself and become just a cog in the machine.

Note: Pairs of students who submit extraordinarily similar sets of reviews for a proposal will be reported to the Disciplinary Officer in the student's Faculty (Science, Arts, Engineering, etc.). For more details, please consult the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures, available [here](#).

- **Framing critiques in supportive language**

Do not make negative comments in the reviews. All comments must be framed in a positive manner. You and other teams have no doubt worked hard on your proposals, so we should be courteous even if we find points to critique. Further, all your points should be actionable, meaning that if there is some problem you identify, you should provide a suggestion on how to correct it. Meanwhile, if there is anything that you really like, please also say so!

A couple of ways to translate criticisms into constructive and positive feedback:

- 'This part is confusing': 'It may help to clarify this section by adding X or Y.'
- 'Your idea is too simple': 'I liked your idea because of X and Y, and adding a few more layers of complexity could make it even better. For example, ...'

Grading

This milestone is worth 4% of your final grade, divided equally amongst the three best reviews of the four that you will submit. Note that you could submit only three reviews if you like, and you would automatically get a zero for the fourth review, which would be dropped.

The grade for each review will take into account the following factors:

- was the provided solution template used, and not changed
- was the review framed in supportive language
- are all required components present in the review
- did the review fail to notice anything that was obviously missing or incorrect in the proposal
- did the arguments present in the review make sense
- if design patterns were misused, did the review correctly address why the argument in the proposal was incorrect (especially for the two design patterns for which a detailed explanation was provided)

Getting the proposal PDFs and submitting your reviews

To obtain the four proposals you are to review, please pull the latest code from the 303MUD repository, then login to the virtual world by running the `client_remote.py` file and type `/get_proposals` into the chat. You should receive a `.zip` file (in the current working directory) that contains the proposals you are to review.

We will provide the submission instructions for your review PDFs some days before the deadline.

Next milestone

A few days after the review deadline, you will receive the grade for your proposal as well as the reviews by other students, and you can begin to work on the project. (You may be requested to make changes to your proposal and re-submit.) Guidelines for starting to write your project code will be provided at that time.