Semester At-A-Glance

Anja Sheppard

The University of Texas at Dallas

ECS 1100.003

Instructor: Tanisha Edwards

Semester At-A-Glance

University as a freshman can seem daunting, but in reality the newfound independence and increased workload can be managed with the proper planning and dedication. My wide breadth of classes as a Computer Science Major will help me find new interests, better understand the value of higher education, and succeed in a broader sense not just this semester, but beyond.

I will be taking the following courses this semester: CS 1200, CS 2305, CS 2336, ECS 1100, MATH 2418, GOVT 2306, and UNIV 1010. I think that my hardcore math and computer science classes such as CS 2336 and MATH 2418 will be very challenging content-wise, but my classes consisting more of busy work such as CS 1200, UNIV 1010, and ECS 1100 will be challenging through the group work aspect. While the content may be easier, there are smaller, more frequent assignments that I will have to stay on top of. In order to make sure those don’t slip by, I’m committing to adding every single assignment to my planner in order to remind myself when they are due. For my more content-heavy classes, I will adopt the strategy of practicing via optional homework problems the evening after class in order to reinforce the material learned that day. I find it personally very helpful that my Linear Algebra class has problem solving sessions and provides weekly homework assignments and recommended problems.

I personally am looking forward the most to my CS 2336 class. I took Data Structures in high school and loved it. Plus, the class is in C++ which is one of my favorite coding languages! I really like the attitude and attentiveness of the professor. He really seems to care about the students and assigns work that allows us to learn in our own way through a real-life coding setting.

Beyond the obvious academic merit of the classes I am taking this semester, many of my courses have a relevance extending into my career plans and extracurricular life. For example, I am in the honors block of GOVT 2306, which is giving me the chance to practice my critical thinking skills in a small group setting while also learning more about the dynamics of Texas politics. This class as well as CS 1200 and ECS 1100 are teaching me the importance of group work and soft skills, which are crucial in the field of computer science (despite what many may think). For this reason, I really enjoy humanities and language courses as well which I plan to take in future semesters. My purely math and programming courses (MATH 2418, CS 2336, and CS 2305) are giving me more than just the raw skills; they are also letting me discover how to manage large projects on my own and learn how to ask for help. Being curious and asking questions is never a bad thing. Also, I really enjoy learning new things and I picked Computer Science as my major because of how fun it is for me personally! They can be quite intimidating, though. For example, on the first day in most of my classes the instructors were friendly and spent the block going over the syllabus and answering questions. MATH 2418, on the other hand, jumped right in. Five minutes were allotted to the syllabus, and the rest of the 1.75 hour block was spent on teaching vectors and linear combinations. I was very intimidated, but after learning in class and going to my problem solving section with the TA, I’m beginning to feel more comfortable.

As seen in the calendars in the appendix, it becomes clear very quickly how busy my Wednesdays are. I am pledging to make an extra effort to get my Wednesday work done on the weekends in order to reduce stress. Also, some of my exams coincide so I will have to get that figured out. Otherwise, the workload looks manageable if I stay on top of deadlines and don’t let anything slip through. A tip I got this week that I would love to try out is to experiment with different study spaces (my room, the res hall study room, the library, etc.) I even learned that the Gender Center and the Multicultural Center in the SSB have study rooms open to students! In regards to group work, I anticipate a lot of this type of activity in CS 1200, ECS 1100, and GOVT 2306. I already had a group assignment in CS 1200 which involved a campus scavenger hunt, and even that was logistically tough to handle! I will definitely overcompensate on the amount of time I allot group projects for those classes.

All in all, I think this semester will fly by. As long as I keep my stress under check by communicating with professors and staying on top of my deadlines, this term will be educational and fun!

Appendix

August 2018

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** |
| **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** |
| **12** | **13** | **14** | **15** | **16** | **17** | **18** |
| **19** | **20** | **21** | **22** | **23**  ECS 1100 Discussion Post | **24** | **25** |
| **26**  ECS 1100 Discussion Response | **27** | **28** | **29**  MATH 2418 P-Set and Quiz  ECS 1100 Semester At-A-Glance, CLA+ | **30** | **31** |  |

September 2018

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | **1** |
| **2**  CS 1200 Homework 1 | **3**  LABOR DAY | **4** | **5**  MATH 2418 P-Set and Quiz  ECS 1100 Academic Goals | **6** | **7** | **8** |
| **9** | **10** | **11** | **12**  MATH 2418 P-Set and Quiz  ECS 1100 Informational Speech | **13** | **14** | **15** |
| **16** | **17** | **18** | **19**  MATH 2418 P-Set and Quiz | **20**  ECS 1100 Discussion Post | **21** | **22** |
| **23**  ECS 1100 Discussion Response | **24** | **25** | **26**  MATH 2418 P-Set and Quiz  ECS 1100 Career Research | **27**  CS 2305 Exam 1 | **28** | **29** |
| **30** |  |  |  |  |  |  |

October 2018

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **1**  UNIV 1010 Final Project Due | **2** | **3**  ECS 1100 Resume, Major Research | **4**  CS 1200 Exam  MATH 2418 Midterm | **5** | **6** |
| **7** | **8**  GOVT 2306 Exam 1 | **9** | **10**  MATH 2418 P-Set and Quiz  ECS 1100 Midterm Reflection | **11**  MATH 2418 Midterm | **12** | **13** |
| **14** | **15** | **16** | **17**  MATH 2418 P-Set and Quiz | **18**  ECS 1100 Discussion Post | **19** | **20**  CS 2305 Exam 2 |
| **21**  ECS 1100 Discussion Response | **22**  ECS 1100 Budget | **23** | **24**  MATH 2418 P-Set and Quiz  ECS 1100 Registration Form | **25** | **26** | **27** |
| **28** | **29** | **30** | **31**  MATH 2418 P-Set and Quiz |  |  |  |

November 2018

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|  |  |  |  | **1**  ECS 1100 Discussion Post | **2** | **3** |
| **4**  ECS 1100 Discussion Response | **5** | **6** | **7**  MATH 2418 P-Set and Quiz  ECS 1100 Life Skills Reflection | **8** | **9** | **10** |
| **11** | **12** | **13**  CS 1200 Exam | **14**  MATH 2418 P-Set and Quiz | **15**  ECS 1100 Discussion Post | **16** | **17**  T H |
| **18**  A N  ECS 1100 Discussion Response | **19**  K S | **20**  G I | **21**  V I | **22**  N G | **23**  B R | **24**  E A |
| **25**  K ! | **26** | **27** | **28**  MATH 2418 P-Set and Quiz  ECS 1100 Out-of-Class Assignments | **29** | **30** |  |

December 2018

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|  |  |  |  |  |  | **1** |
| **2** | **3** | **4** | **5**  MATH 2418 P-Set and Quiz  GOVT 2306 Exam 2 | **6**  CS 2305 Exam 3 | **7** | **8** |
| **9** | **10** | **11** | **12** | **13** | **14** | **15** |
| **16** | **17** | **18** | **19** | **20** | **21** | **22** |
| **23** | **24** | **25** | **26** | **27** | **28** | **29** |
| **30** | **31** |  |  |  |  |  |