question @738   **83** views

Workload

My partner and I spent over 20 hours on each of the last two assignments (and for assignment 4 we weren't even able to start part 2), and I know from talking to other groups that we are not the only ones. We have been posting on Piazza whenever we get confused, and we have been making use of the code clinics. It's not that we're getting stuck -- it's that it takes an incredibly long time to implement and debug.

Of course, this workload is entirely unsustainable for many of us -- two of my other classes include a capstone class and a grad-level class. Both of these have final projects starting up soon as well, and I will not be able to scrape together 24 hours to spend on this class each week.

My question for the instructors is: Are the assignments designed to take us this long to complete? Would it be possible to redesign future assignments with workload in mind? Many of us have limited experience with C++ and networking concepts as neither systems nor networks classes are prerequisites for this class, so it takes us longer than the instructors might plan for.

assignment6

Updated 2 hours ago by Anonymous Gear

the students' answer, *where students collectively construct a single answer*

+1 It is also worth noting that myself, my partner, and several others taking this course are combined majors who do not necessarily intend to work in a CS related job, least of all a software development position. As a required class we are literally just trying to pass so that we can graduate. This class is not only negatively affecting my other courses, and co-op/full time job search but also my physical and mental health...

Updated 14 minutes ago by Anonymous Atom 2 and Viswajith Gopinathan

followup discussions *for lingering questions and comments*

○ Resolved ● Unresolved

Anonymous Poet 2 hours ago
+1
undo helpful | 9

○ Resolved ● Unresolved

Anonymous Helix 2 hours ago
+1
undo helpful | 9

> **Anonymous Helix** 2 hours ago I also hate to say this, but I don't feel I'm getting anything useful out of these extremely long homework assignments. This is not teaching us anything about modern software development. I'm sure a lot of us have been on co-op already, and we know that this is not what the real world is like. If a company were as organized as this course, I would have quit by now.
> undo helpful | 18
>
> > **Anonymous Mouse** 2 hours ago
> > +1000
> > undo helpful | 9
>
> > **Anonymous Calc** 2 hours ago I agree given co-op experience, I have never seen a company that is organized so inefficiantly
> > undo helpful | 10

○ Resolved ● Unresolved

Anonymous Beaker 2 hours ago
+1
undo helpful | 9

○ Resolved ● Unresolved

Matthew Kachmar 2 hours ago +1

> We also are spending between 20-30 hours a week for homework just for this class and are not able to complete the assignments to our liking. It would be helpful if the assignments were shortened.
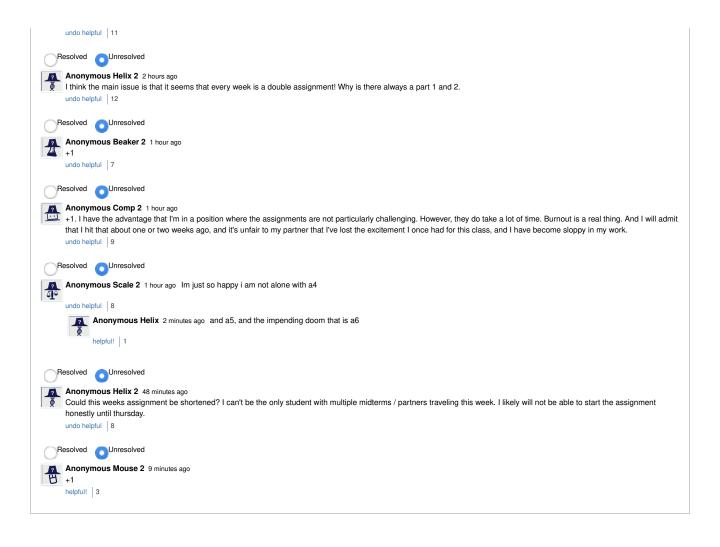> undo helpful | 13

○ Resolved ● Unresolved

Anonymous Comp 2 hours ago
+1
undo helpful | 9

○ Resolved ● Unresolved

Anonymous Scale 2 hours ago +1

undo helpful | 9

○ Resolved ● Unresolved

Anonymous Atom 2 hours ago
+1
undo helpful | 9

○ Resolved ● Unresolved

Lucas Calero 2 hours ago
+1 - The only reason we were able to complete Part 2 of last assignment was because I'm currently taking Networks and Distributed Systems. The current project for both this class and my networks class is scarily similar: Networks Project 3, Networks Project 2.
undo helpful | 10

> **Anonymous Mouse** 2 hours ago
> the course no longer is teaching what it was originally intended for and is instead teaching two combinations of subjects (systems and networking)
> undo helpful | 10

○ Resolved ● Unresolved

Anonymous Mouse 2 hours ago
+1, also as Anonymous Helix said, this also isn't teaching (a large majority of us) anything we'll ever use in industry, as well as many other things that are widely regarded to be bad practices (rolling your own for everything, copying and pasting code to emulate more modern design approaches)
undo helpful | 14

> **Anonymous Helix** 2 hours ago   My partner and I are finding ourselves just throwing code together until it works. That is how you get fired.
> undo helpful | 12

> **Anonymous Calc** 2 hours ago   I agree, we are doing the same. I thought that we were supposed to learn good design practices and not how to write code that will eventually be laughed at as shitty legacy code
> undo helpful | 10

○ Resolved ● Unresolved

Anuj Modi 2 hours ago   I'd like to add that in the beginning of the course we were told that we would be provided a network layer and a message transmission format which would likely be JSON. Now we are asked to design a message format and a direct byte serialization format, both of which are pretty hard if you have no experience with C and networking. Many people don't have this experience, but as Lucas mentioned even having this experience the tasks are quite difficult.
undo helpful | 16

> **Anonymous Poet 2** 14 minutes ago   ^ Hey I remember that talk too. Wonder what's up with that
> helpful! | 1

○ Resolved ● Unresolved

Anonymous Gear 2 2 hours ago
The hardest part for me about this class is how back my freshmen year I could have logged a ton of time for a class like this, but since I am looking for co-ops at the same time, I lose days that I know I am going to need to get these assignments done to preparing for interviews and then have to crunch on Wednesday-Friday.
undo helpful | 10

> **Anonymous Scale 2** 1 hour ago   And full time
> undo helpful | 4

○ Resolved ● Unresolved

Anonymous Poet 2 2 hours ago
+1. We have other classes too. Some of us, including myself, work part time (15-20) hours every week. We also have other extracurriculars and obligations. I previously privately posted about the workload in this class, and the question was made public and I was told to have better time management skills. If an instructor wants to meet with me and tell me how to balance a full class load, part-time work, co-op interviews, and extracurriculars without time traveling, I would love to do so.
undo helpful | 13

> **Anonymous Helix** 2 hours ago   +10000. You cannot expect us to be able to manage our time when our workload is equal to having 3 full time jobs.
> undo helpful | 9

> **Anonymous Poet** 2 hours ago   +100000
> undo helpful | 7

> **Bharadwajlal Birali** 1 hour ago   So you're telling me you haven't been using a Time Turner? Dang
> undo helpful | 6

○ Resolved ● Unresolved

Anonymous Gear 2 2 hours ago
It's also kind of crazy how a 30 hour assignment is worth less than half for our grade compared to a 10 minute code review.

undo helpful | 11

○ Resolved ● Unresolved

Anonymous Helix 2 2 hours ago
I think the main issue is that it seems that every week is a double assignment! Why is there always a part 1 and 2.
undo helpful | 12

○ Resolved ● Unresolved

Anonymous Beaker 2 1 hour ago
+1
undo helpful | 7

○ Resolved ● Unresolved

Anonymous Comp 2 1 hour ago
+1. I have the advantage that I'm in a position where the assignments are not particularly challenging. However, they do take a lot of time. Burnout is a real thing. And I will admit that I hit that about one or two weeks ago, and it's unfair to my partner that I've lost the excitement I once had for this class, and I have become sloppy in my work.
undo helpful | 9

○ Resolved ● Unresolved

Anonymous Scale 2 1 hour ago Im just so happy i am not alone with a4
undo helpful | 8

> **Anonymous Helix** 2 minutes ago and a5, and the impending doom that is a6
> helpful! | 1

○ Resolved ● Unresolved

Anonymous Helix 2 48 minutes ago
Could this weeks assignment be shortened? I can't be the only student with multiple midterms / partners traveling this week. I likely will not be able to start the assignment honestly until thursday.
undo helpful | 8

○ Resolved ● Unresolved

Anonymous Mouse 2 9 minutes ago
+1
helpful! | 3