

CS 340– First Steps and Important Info

This document contains some general information that is more specific to online courses and my personal teaching style so it does not really belong in the syllabus. The first things you should do are read the syllabus, read the communication guide and make sure you have access to Piazza.

Material is sorted into weeks, they are released a week at a time on Sunday mornings typically, but the guarantee is to have them up by Monday morning.

Discussion on Piazza is expected. If you are not active in discussion either on Piazza my expectation is that you will only get a good grade in the class if you have prior experience with databases.

Watch the videos every week. The videos for this course are created by “Justin Welford” who is the designer and also the previous instructor of the course. Videos may include some information related to previous terms such as different weekly materials. I will put a note for each video if there is something important that has been changed this quarter.

Assignments resemble, to some extent, real life tasks you would be working on and I am serving as the client. In the realm of modeling things in the real world, **language will be vague and can be interpreted multiple ways. They are not all right.** If something can be interpreted in more than one way, it is your responsibility to clarify as I will typically have only one correct solution in mind. This is no different from working with a client in real life.

Updates and clarifications to assignments will come on Piazza. **If it can be reasonably expected to change the deliverables for an assignment it will be flagged with the ‘Important’ category.** Changes that require updates to the content of the assignment will generally be minimal and be released at least 5 days before the assignment due date. Changes that only impact the formatting of the deliverables (file type, number of files etc) can be changed up to 3 days prior to the assignment due date.

The order of precedence for conflicting information is as follows, items higher on the list have more priority:

- The syllabus
- What I say on Piazza
- Notes on assignments in Canvas
- Videos