

# PIC 40A: Syllabus

## Instructor information

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## Learning outcomes

We will cover a large subset of Mike Lindstrom’s PIC 40A syllabus (but the order in which I teach the topics will be very different). Mike’s slides are provided on BruinLearn.

We will discuss the following languages.

- **HTML5** - a markup language (not a programming language) for how information on a webpage should be rendered/displayed in a web browser.
- **Javascript** - a programming language that is used heavily in web development. Javascript allows us to make webpages interactive. It also allows us to generate more complicated webpages that would be a huge hassle to write with raw HTML.
- **PHP** - a programming language which allows us to generate HTML that a web browser displays without the clients ever seeing the code that goes on behind the scenes. It allows us to perform server-side operations like writing to files or looking up hashed passwords.
- **CSS3** - provides a means for specifying format/display instructions to the web browser when it parses HTML. A browser can have its own defaults. The CSS gives the control back to the web developer so that we can make pretty websites.
- **SQLite3** - a standardized query language to work with databases.

By the end of the class, I hope you will feel confident using all of these languages together in one project.

## COVID-19

Ensuring a safer campus depends on each of us following the latest UCLA health and safety guidelines. Please abide by UCLA's COVID protocols which are available at [covid-19.ucla.edu](https://covid-19.ucla.edu).

## Official browser

Google Chrome 111.

However, there is one situation where it'll be helpful to test on another browser.

## The PIC Lab

The PIC Lab is located in MS 2000. All the computers have Notepad++, PuTTY, and WinSCP installed on them, software that is sufficient for web programming. However, it is likely that you'll prefer to use your own computer and will only use the PIC Lab if you encounter an emergency.

## Plagiarism

Your homework submissions will be compared to everyone else's submission using an **advanced** plagiarism detection algorithm written by one of the PIC instructors. If your work is found to have excessive similarities with another student in the class, you will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and you will receive an email saying, "Your work was found to be similar to that of another student and so I am reporting you to the Office of Student Conduct. If you are innocent, I apologize for the inconvenience caused; the Office of Student Conduct will find you innocent and so you have nothing to worry about."

To ensure that you don't encounter any problems, here are some suggestions for completing your work.

- Don't look at or discuss the details of another student's code for an assignment you are working on, and don't let another student look at your code.
- Don't start with someone else's code and make changes to it, or in any way share code with other students.
- If you are talking to another student about an assignment, don't take notes, and wait an hour before you write any code.

## Chegg and ChatBots

Using cheating resources like Chegg is forbidden. Although resources like chatgpt are useful, they are completely unnecessary for this class and I will show you the excellent documentation that you should be using to learn. Therefore, using ChatBots is forbidden. If you turn in code that makes use of functions or syntax that I have not taught you, you will be asked to explain every line to me in person. I will record the meeting and if you cannot explain your code sufficiently, you will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct together with the recorded video.

## Homework

- There will be between 8 and 9 homework assignments.
- The assignments will be **posted on BruinLearn**.
- You will **submit your solutions to Gradescope**.
- You will **also submit “live” versions of your homework to the PIC server**.
- Be careful to follow whatever submission instructions are provided. Most importantly, **your Gradescope and PIC server submissions should be identical**.
- Your homework scores and feedback will be available on Gradescope.
- Homework will be graded based on how well your website meets what has been asked for. Often the schemes can be a little strict, but they are stated in the homework so that you know what you have to focus your attention on. **If your website does not load, you will receive 0 points**.
- **Your lowest two homework scores will be dropped**.
- **Late submissions and resubmissions will not be accepted**.

## Midterm

There will be a 50-minute midterm on **Monday May 8th** during our class time. If you have to miss the midterm, then you will make use of the second grading scheme.

## Final

Your final exam is scheduled **from 11:30am to 2:30pm on Wednesday June 14th**.

Note that university policy requires that a student who has an undocumented absence from the final exam be given a failing grade in the course.

## Grades

Your course score will be determined by whichever of the following gives you a higher score:

50% homework, 20% midterm, 30% final;

50% homework, 0% midterm, 50% final.

You should address any issues about homework and midterm grading within a week of when the work is graded. **After that time, no score changes will be allowed.** All grades will be available online through Gradescope.

It is definitely the case that:

- achieving above 95% will result in an A **or better**,
- achieving above 90% will result in an A- **or better**,
- achieving above 85% will result in a B+ **or better**,
- achieving above 80% will result in a B **or better**, and so on.

The “or better”s are to emphasize that exact grade cutoffs are likely to be kinder than 95%, 90%, 85%, 80% etc. Moreover, these cutoffs were generated during the pandemic. Student scores are much lower when in-person exams are part of their grade and so the grade cutoffs are likely to be quite a bit kinder.

Just because someone failed to understand this in the past...

Go to Bruinwalk: <https://bruinwalk.com/professors/michael-andrews/comptng-10a>.

Contrast the review starting with “NOT FRIENDLY for beginners” (someone who dropped my PIC 10A class after misunderstanding the scheme) and the one beginning with “Just FYI: I received less than 95% and an A in Summer 2020”.

## Our inclusive learning environment

UCLA values diversity and inclusion. We expect everyone in this class to contribute to a respectful, welcoming, and inclusive environment to support the learning of all other members of the class. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or accurate assessment or achievement, please notify us.

Students needing academic accommodations based on a disability should contact the Center for Accessible Education (CAE). CAE will assess all requested accommodations and communicate appropriately with us (your instructors). For more information, please visit the [CAE website](#).

Resources are available to foster the well-being of all UCLA students as they pursue their academic goals. Any student who finds themselves in immediate distress, please call Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) to speak directly with a counselor 24/7, or please call 911. For more information, please visit the [CAPS website](#).

You deserve a learning environment free from discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you experience these behaviors or otherwise know of a Title IX violation, you have many options for support and/or reporting. The [UCLA Title IX Office](#) can help you navigate your options.