

Course Expectations Document

Expectations for CS5244, Fall 2021

Instructors: G. Kulczycki (Dr. K) and S. Atkinson (Dr. A)

This course will be conducted as a learning community. The key elements to the creation of a learning community are honesty, responsiveness, relevance, respect, openness, and empowerment (Palloff and Pratt, 1999). Therefore, students participating in this course are asked to observe these qualities in their involvement with this course.

Student-Teacher Interaction

- *The preferred method of contacting the professors will be via Piazza.* Unless you have a post that contains sensitive information, please make your post public so that all students can help answer your question and/or benefit from the post.
- *Every effort will be made by the professors to respond to Piazza questions within 24 hours on weekdays, 48 hours on weekends or holidays.* The professors are expected to respond to comments and questions in a respectful manner, to facilitate learning with a high level of interaction, and to hold to standards indicative of the academic excellence required by Virginia Tech.
- Students are expected to check (or participate) in the Piazza forums at least every other day during the week and at least once on the weekend. If students have a question about an assignment, they should *first check Piazza for questions involving that assignment to see if their question has been answered already.*
- Students are expected to ask as many questions as necessary and encouraged to do so publicly on Piazza for that purpose. *Questions or requests sent less than 24 hours prior to assignment completion may not excuse a late submission.*
- Contributions to discussions forums are expected to be constructive, relevant, and to contribute to the group knowledge in a way that either introduces new information or provides information that confirms, supports or challenges previous thoughts and statements. *Posts should be respectful and helpful.*

Attendance and Course Involvement

- *All students are expected and required to use their VA Tech email for this course.* If a participant should choose to use another account, he or she does so at the risk of having the email ignored or deleted as junk mail. In the case of a submission dispute,

the issue may not be reviewed, and no consideration or exception will be granted if the participant did not use his or her VA Tech email account.

- It is expected that a student in this course will spend approximately *eight to ten hours per week* (on average) involved in preparing for and completing assignments, exercises, and discussions for this course.
- Students are expected to “attend” all classes by participation in all lesson activities and *submitting all assignments by the due date* unless otherwise negotiated in advance.
- Students are expected to either *(a) attend the live Q&A sessions, or (b) listen to the recorded sessions if they cannot attend live*. There is often valuable information that is given in these sessions, and some of it may be relevant to current projects or future exams.

Academic Honesty and Integrity

- In this course, *we will abide by the Graduate Honor Code*. Please see <https://graduateschool.vt.edu/academics/expectations/graduate-honor-system.html> for specific information regarding expectations and policies related to the Graduate Honor Code. If you have a problem with your code, post on Piazza first. If you have a general question about how to do something, it is fine to search Google and check sites like Stack Overflow, as long as you don't copy code verbatim. It is *not* acceptable to find another student's code for a similar assignment on a GitHub repository and use that. Also, it is *not* acceptable to post your own code on a public GitHub repository that others can access.
- It is expected that any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work either individually or as part of a group. *All cases of academic dishonesty including cheating, plagiarism and copyright violations will be reported to the GHS*. Academic dishonesty can be discovered through review of exam or quiz access and closing date/time, review of file origin and properties, comparison of submission to database of previous submissions, web search for content origin and software to detect plagiarism and copyright violation.
- It is expected that *Student-Student interaction will take place primarily on Piazza*. Students may *not* work together on any class material outside of Piazza.
- It is expected that all participants will *keep a copy of work submitted* as backup in case of error or dispute.

- *Both students and professors are expected to adhere to all policies of Virginia Tech* including but not limited to those addressing conduct and professionalism. It is expected that students in this course will conduct themselves as professionals and will contribute to and support a learning community that demonstrates evidence the key elements of that community as previously indicated.

I am very happy to have the opportunity to guide your learning and to learn with you in this course. I look forward to a great semester and your successful course completion. Please know that I am here to help you and that you can reach out to me anytime you have questions or concerns.

After reviewing the expectations stated in this document, please post any questions or comments you may have to the Piazza discussion forum. Then type your name in the space provided below and date this document where indicated to confirm that you have read and understand the expectations for this course.

After typing in your name and the date, save this document and submit the file to the Canvas course site.

By typing your name below and returning this document as instructed, you are indicating an understanding of, and agreement with the expectations for this course.

Student Name: Gasser Ahmed

Date: 08/24/2021