Course Expectations Document

**Expectations** for CS5254, Fall 2022

**Instructors**: G. Kulczycki and M. Oliva

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.[[1]](#footnote-1)\* Therefore, students participating in this course are asked to observe these qualities in their involvement with this course.

## Student-Instructor Interaction

* *Students must use their Virginia Tech email for this course.* Canvas announcements are sent to the student’s Virginia Tech email, and students are responsible for reading all Canvas announcements. Sometimes a Canvas announcement will contain additional requirements for an assignment, and students will be expected to implement any additional requirements made in announcements as part of the assignment.
* *Students should use Piazza to contact instructors and graders.* The primary instructor’s email will be provided, but emails can sometimes be overlooked, especially when the semester gets busy. However, the instructor will be checking Piazza every day.
* *Every effort will be made by the instructor to respond to questions within 24 hours on weekdays, and 48 hours on weekends or holidays.* The instructor is expected to respond to all comments and questions from participants 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 should make every effort to check Piazza at least every other day for notes from the instructor and posts related to questions they have about an assignment.* If a student has 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 should make their Piazza posts public unless they contain truly private information*. If you have a question, someone else probably has the same question. For example, if you are running a little behind and would like another day to complete an assignment, you should make your request a public post on Piazza, as other students may be having difficulty also. Private questions on Piazza may be made public if they do not contain private information.
* *Student-Instructor interaction will take place primarily on Piazza.* However, there will also be interaction via the live Zoom Q&A sessions, Canvas discussions, and office hours when necessary. Office hours will only be held if a problem cannot be resolved on Piazza.
* *Posts should be respectful and helpful.* Contributions to discussion and Q&A forums should 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. In other words, stay on topic and be respectful.
* *Questions about assignments should be posted in a timely manner.* Students are encouraged to post early and often when they have questions about an assignment. Questions or requests sent at the last minute (for example, less than 24 hours prior to assignment completion) do not excuse a late submission.
* *Students should not post code to Piazza.* If you are having a problem with your code, tell us what the problem is. Is your application doing something you don’t expect? Is it failing a particular test? Are you getting a runtime error or a compile error? This is where trouble shooting should start. In some circumstances, you may post a line or two of code for clarity. For example, if an error message is telling you that there is an error in a particular line of code. If you want to tell us how you are approaching a problem, you can feel free to describe your code in English. For example: “I iterate through the collection of strings, appending a colon to each string before printing it out.” Describing code in this way also has the advantage that it helps you better understand what your code is doing.

## Academic Integrity

* *All students, instructors, and graders will abide by the Graduate Honor Code.* Please see <http://ghs.graduateschool.vt.edu> for specific information regarding expectations and policies related to the Graduate Honor Code.
* *All work completed should be the student’s own.* Students should not collaborate with other students regarding projects, unless that collaboration takes place via public posts on Piazza that the instructor can monitor. When responding to a Piazza question from another student, the student responding should try to help the other student understand the problem and point them in the right direction; they should not explicitly give away any answers to assignments.
* *This course has a zero-tolerance policy for academic dishonesty including cheating, plagiarism, and copyright violations.* 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. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Graduate Honor System.
* *Students should not search the web for assignment solutions.* For example, students should not look for similar assignments in public repositories like GitHub. Also, students should not save their code or solutions to assignments in public repositories where they can be discovered by current or future students. Students *may* search for general solutions to coding problems in forums such as Stack Overflow, but they should not copy code from these forums verbatim. If students are not sure whether using code, no matter how small, from a publicly available source is allowed, they should ask the instructor by posting to Piazza.
* *Students should participate in all lesson activities.* This includes completing all assignments and submitting them by the due date. It also includes participating in Piazza discussions when needed and viewing the recording of the weekly Q&A session if the student cannot attend live.
* *We expect students in this course to spend approximately eight to ten hours per week (on average) on the course.* Naturally, these times will vary depending on the student background and their comfort with the subject matter.
* *Students should keep a backup copy of all work submitted.* This is important in case errors arise or in case there is a dispute in what was submitted. It may also be important in cases of suspected GHS violations.
* *Both students and instructors are expected to adhere to all policies of Virginia Tech.* This includes, but is not limited to, those policies 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 of the key elements of that community as previously indicated.

We are very happy to have the opportunity to guide your learning and to learn with you in this course. We look forward to a great semester and your successful course completion. Please know that we are here to help you and that you can reach out to us 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: 01/18/2022

1. \* See *Building Learning Communities in Cyberspace* by Palloff and Pratt (1999) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)