
[CS3704] Intermediate Software Design and Engineering

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Virginia Tech

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Introduction

What is software and its engineering?

Course Overview

Responsibilities

About Me

Education:



B.S. 2017-2022



Exchange Program-2020



Ph.D 2022-Current

Advisor: Dr. Chris Brown

Contact: shawal@vt.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

Research

My research involves Blockchain Oriented Software Engineering.

Goal of our Lab: Seeks to find ways to improve the ***behavior***, ***productivity***, and ***decision-making*** of software engineers.



About the GTA: Hunter Leary

I'm Hunter Leary. I am a PhD student here at Tech and I am a part of Dr. Brown's research group.

My primary research is in automated software engineering. Currently, I'm working on a tool for automated software testing using machine learning.

Contact: hunterl22@vt.edu

Office Hours: TBD

About the GTA: Gayatri Bhatambarekar

I am Gayatri Bhatambarekar, currently in my second semester pursuing a Master's in Computer Science. I was a TA for CS5744 Software Design and Quality last semester.

Feel free to connect with me for any academic discussions or assistance. Let's make this semester a collaborative and enriching experience for all of us!

Contact: gayatrimilind@vt.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday 4:30PM – 6:30PM

About the GTA: Richard Torres Molina

I am Richard. I did my BSc in Information Technology (IT) in my home country, a certification in IT (China), and a double MSc in Advanced System Dependability in the United Kingdom and France. Currently, I am master student at VT in the CS department. My research area is human computer interaction, machine learning, and software engineering.

Feel free to contact me for any questions or enquiries.

Contact: richardat@vt.edu

Office Hours: Monday 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

About the UTA: Ruba Babiker

I'm Ruba Babiker, I am a Junior in Computer Science and I took this class last semester and really enjoyed it. Can't wait to meet all of you this semester!

Contact: rubababiker@vt.edu
Office Hours: Friday 2pm - 4pm

What is software?

- Software is a set of instructions, data, or programs used to operate a computer and execute specific tasks. In simpler terms, software tells a computer how to function. [[1](#)]
- Software encompasses:
 - Executable programs
 - Data associated with these programs
 - Documents: user requirements, design documents, user/programmer guides, etc.

Why is software important?

Software is eating the world! [Andreessen, 2011]

“More and more major businesses and industries are being run on software and delivered as online services...”



Hardware vs. Software

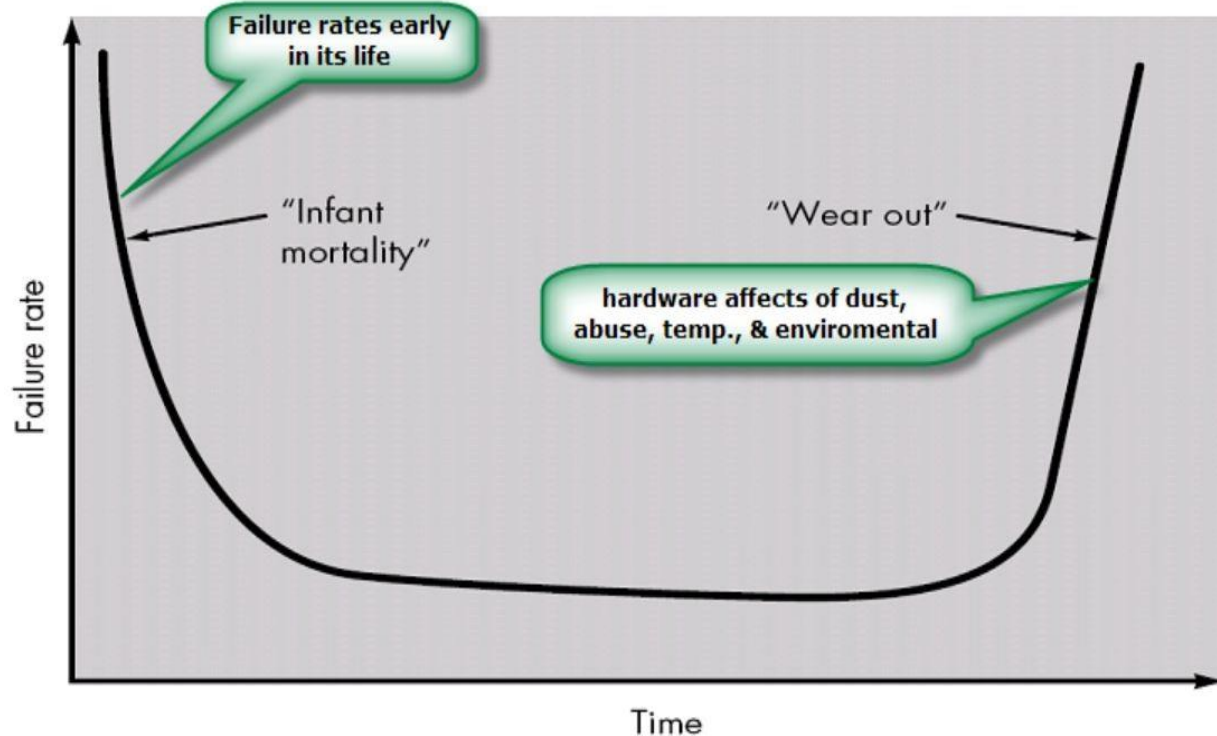
Hardware

- Manufactured
- Built using components
- Relatively simple
- Difficult or impossible to modify
- Hiring more people = more work done
- ...

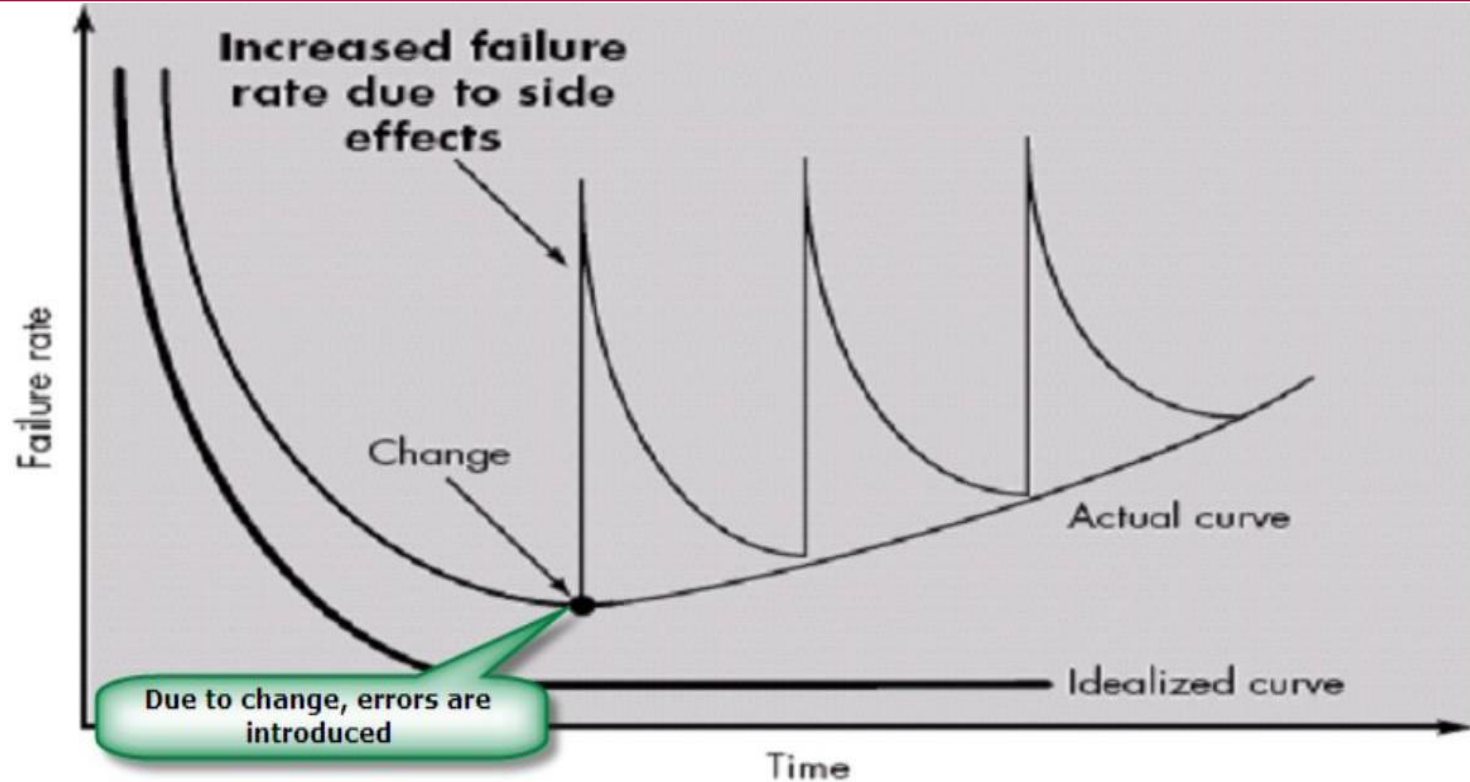
Software

- Developed
- Custom built?
- Complex
- Routinely modified and updated
- More people **!=** more productivity
- ...

Hardware “wears out” over time



So does software!



What is software engineering?

A discipline that encompasses:

- the ***process*** of software development;
- ***methods*** for software analysis, design, construction, testing, and maintenance; and
- ***tools*** that support the processes and the methods.

What is this class?

- CS3704: Intermediate Software Design and Engineering (Undergraduate SE course)

Explores the principles of software design in detail, with an emphasis on software engineering aspects. Includes exposure of software lifecycle activities including design, coding, testing, debugging, and maintenance, highlighting how design affects these activities.

Course Goals

1. Intellectual development

- Knowledge of processes, methods, and tools to assist software development
- Understand current techniques and problems in software engineering

2. Practical development

- Improve development, communication, and writing skills
- Practice various software engineering skills and processes

Course Overview

- Teaching Staff
- Course Materials
- Learning Objectives
- Class Activities
- Course Work

Course Materials



- Course materials will primarily be posted on GitHub
[<https://github.com/CS3704-VT/Course>]
- Slack will be the primary mode of communication
 - Class updates, contact other students/teaching staff, questions, etc.
- Canvas will be mostly used for submitting assignments.

Course Materials (cont.)

- No textbook is required
 - FYI, lecture content will primarily use:
 - Software Engineering: A Practitioner's Approach [Pressman]
 - Building Software Together [Wilson]
 - Applying UML and Patterns: An Introduction to Object-oriented Analysis and Design [Larman]
 - Software Engineering [Somerville]
 - Head First Design Patterns [Freeman et al.]

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- **Understand software engineering processes and the software development life cycle**
- **Use techniques and processes to create and analyze requirements for an application**
- **Use techniques and processes to design a software system**
- **Identify processes related to phases of the software lifecycle**
- **Explain the differences between software engineering processes**
- **Discuss research questions and current topics related to software engineering**
- **Communicate about the requirements and design of software applications**

Learning Approach: Class Activities

How to achieve the learning outcomes: 

1. Traditional lectures
2. Workshop-style learning experiences
3. Discussion presentations

*Generally, the course will be structured with lectures on **Mondays and Wednesdays** and workshop or discussion activities about lecture content on **Fridays**.*

Lectures



- *Why?*
 - To convey software engineering related information to students

Workshops

- Interactive tutorials, labs, mini-projects, etc.
 - Some individual and some in small groups
 - In-class activities
- *Why?*
 - To practice applicable and real-world SE skills and concepts

Discussions

- Discussions on current SE topics
 - Each student will present **1** paper or article in a group of six students, and lead an activity with two other groups
 - Instructor will provide papers, groups can propose content for instructor approval
- *Why?*
 - To improve critical thinking and communication skills about SE concepts

Learning Evaluation: Course Work

How you will be evaluated on the learning outcomes: □

1. Homework
2. Exam
3. Project

Homework

- Mix of lecture review, application, and personal reflection questions.
- Always due at 11:59pm of the week after assignment
 - see Course Schedule



HW0 due 11:59pm this Monday (1/22)!

Exam

- The exam will cover all course materials (lectures, workshops, and homeworks) except for discussion presentations.
- Details
 - Exam Review: 04/19
 - Exam: 04/26
 - Format: TBD

Project

- Work in teams (~4 or 5)
- Details: TBD
 - Choose from a set of given topics
 - Come up with a new project idea and get the instructor's approval
- Requirements Analysis and Design
- Project deliverables and software artifacts will be due throughout the semester (see Course Schedule).
- Presentations

Ut Prosim

The Virginia Tech motto is Ut Prosim which means “*That I May Serve*”. To embody this as stakeholders in the VT community

Ex.) participating in a research study, attending a department seminar, volunteer project, etc.

Link to survey



Grading

Assignment	Percentage
Project	35%
Exam	25%
Discussion Presentation	15%
Workshops	10%
Homework	15%

Responsibilities

CS3704: Intermediate Software Design and Engineering

Course designed by: Dr. Chris Brown

Responsibilities of the Professor

Prepare **useful** and **interesting knowledge** for you

Prepare materials **before** class

Come to class **on time**, **prepared** to teach

Offer **challenging but reasonable** homework and tests

Grade **fairly** without bias

Return graded work promptly with **helpful** comments



Goals:

- Support discussion and knowledge sharing of important concepts
- Make the class fun and engaging for everyone

Responsibilities of the Student

Come to class on time

If you miss class, **learn material** on your own

- but make an effort to attend every class

Pay attention to all instructions

Turn in assignments **on time**

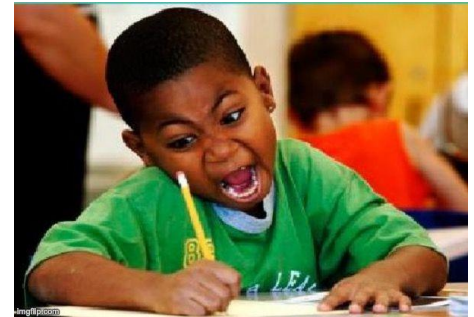
Ask for help when you're confused

Learn the material

If you disagree with me, **disagree politely**

Goals:

- Actively participate in your academic growth
- Engage with course materials and group work



Academic Integrity

- Adhere to university academic integrity and honesty policies.
- All violations will be reported to student conduct.
 - Students will receive a **-50%** on the assignment
- Assignments will describe individual or collaborative work.
- Ask the instructor for clarification, any questions, or concerns before submitting an assignment.

Other Class Policies

- Late submissions without a valid excuse will receive a -25% deduction.
- Be respectful of teaching staff and students.
- Let me know if you need accommodations.
- Attendance is ***strongly encouraged***.
- But...**do not** come to class if you are sick! 🤒
- There will be several opportunities to provide course feedback throughout the semester.

Fostering an inclusive, safe space

A classroom consists of instructors and students. We *all* play a role in creating a safe learning space.

Everyone should feel comfortable and supported by:

- instructors (and TAs)
- fellow classmates

There is **ZERO TOLERANCE** for:

- sexism, racism, etc.
- bullying
- inappropriate comments

Announcements

- HW0 due Jan 22 at 11:59pm
 - Slack profile and introduction
 - Review syllabus and GitHub repo
 - Overview of software engineering topics

Questions?
