

# Introduction to the Course

Building Modern Web Applications - VSP2025

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## **What is this course about?**

- 1. What is this course about?**
2. Logistics
3. Policies
4. Grading
5. Other



## What is this course about?

- **Core principles** behind building modern web applications
- Abstractions and design principles
- Application of core web technologies such as HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Node.js to the above



## What is it NOT about?

- Learning of **specific technologies**
  - These **will get outdated** by the time you finish
  - **Fast changing field**, so new technologies continuously appear and disappear.
  - **Can learn any technology** if you understand the principles and concepts behind web development
- **Frameworks or libraries** (e.g., jQuery)
  - These are built on the principles and concepts
  - Too many to cover in a reasonable time



## Bottom line

- You will understand the principles behind web application development
  - **Not simply copy-paste code** from websites to string together a web application
  - You will **understand why technologies are the way they are**, rather than accept it as a statement of fact, and perhaps change them if needed
  - It **enables you to design novel techniques and technologies** in the web application space
  - If you put in the effort, this course will be really fun! :-)



# Logistics

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## Instructor: Karthik Pattabiraman

Karthik Pattabiraman ([karthikp@ece.ubc.ca](mailto:karthikp@ece.ubc.ca))



- Professor at UBC (joined 2010)
  - PhD from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
  - Detour via Microsoft Research in 2009
- Research
  - Web applications' reliability and security
  - Error resilient applications
  - Internet of Things (IoT) security
  - Machine Learning Dependability
- Teaching this course for the seventh time (since 2017)

## TA: Abraham Chan

Abraham Chan ([abrahamc@ece.ubc.ca](mailto:abrahamc@ece.ubc.ca))

- PhD Student at UBC
  - BAsC & MASc from University of British Columbia
- Research
  - Machine Learning (ML) Reliability
  - Robust ML during Training and Inference
  - ML Compilers





## TA: Mohsen Salehi

Mohsen Salehi ([msalehi@ece.ubc.ca](mailto:msalehi@ece.ubc.ca))

- PhD Student at UBC
  - MASc from Sharif University of Technology
- Research
  - Security in:
  - Internet of Things (IoT)
  - Real-time Embedded devices



## Logistics - Lectures

- Lectures delivered by the instructor in class
- Will consist of a mix of teaching (lecturing) sessions mixed with in-class activities
  - Please bring **your laptops fully charged** with you to class.
  - Contact us if you do not have a laptop or similar device
  - You will **work in teams of three**
  - **Participation in activities is important**
- Lecture notes will be distributed ahead of time
  - No course textbook required; however, we'll recommend some books



## Logistics - Software

- Any OS: Windows, Mac OSX, or Linux
- Your favorite web browser + built-in web dev tools
  - Firefox
  - Chrome
  - Edge
- The text editor/IDE of your choice :-)
  - VScode - highly recommended
  - Sublime
  - Atom
  - Notepad++



## Logistics - Interactions

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Github



[github.com/ubc-vsp25/classroom](https://github.com/ubc-vsp25/classroom)



- Main hub to find all the links
- Lecture slides, class activities, assignments
- Assignment submissions

**Do not distribute**

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Slack



[ubc-vsp25.slack.com](https://ubc-vsp25.slack.com)

- Ask and answer questions - bonus points for participation

**No Email (unless it's private)**

## Logistics - Resources

- There's no textbook for the course
  - Lectures will cover all the material
  - Augment with online resources as needed
  - Attendance expected at all lectures
- Assignments may test you on material not covered in the lectures
  - You're free to use publicly available online resources on the web, but cite them
  - You'll have to read up on JavaScript fundamentals outside of class time



## Policies

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# Policies

- You are responsible for all material you hand in
  - Review UBC's policies for academic dishonesty
  - **Plagiarism of any kind will NOT be tolerated**
    - Automatically **result in you getting an F**
    - Lack of knowledge of policies is not a valid excuse
  - No collaboration allowed on assignments (except with your team mates – later)



## Policies

- All material in the exam will be from the lectures covered in class
  - Will NOT test you on material NOT in the lecture notes!
  - Missing a lecture means that you may miss out
  - Encouraged to ask questions in class and online
- You are encouraged to work on assignments in class and get help from us then and there
  - Office hours will not typically be held outside class
  - If really needed, we can schedule special sessions with you





# Grading

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# Grading - 1

- Assignments (60%)
  - 4 assignments counting for 15% each
  - Due in class every 2-3 days (see schedule)
  - Done in teams of 3 (form teams by today)
  - Encouraged to work during class on laptops
  - Use Github to commit code (do this periodically)
  - No late assignments (no exceptions)



## Grading - 2

- Final Exam (40%)
  - To be held on **Aug 8th** in class
  - Must be done individually (NO collaboration)
  - Closed notes and Closed book part consisting of multiple choice questions (15%)
  - Open notes and Open book part consisting of 5 programming problems (25%) – please bring your laptop for this (let us know if you don't have a laptop)



Exam will be auto-graded with manual checking.

## Assignments - Git

- Open source distributed version control system
- We will be using Git for version control and GitHub for hosting
- Each group will receive a private GitHub repository
  - We will create these repositories and add you to it along with us
  - You must use these repositories for assignment submission (next slide)



## Assignments - Git

- Assignment submissions will take place through GitHub
- Create an assignment branch (i.e., assignment-1, assignment-2, assignment-3, assignment-4) by the due date (details later)
  - No other means to submit an assignment will be accepted!
- No late commits will be accepted (unless with instructor permission).
  - Push your changes to the appropriate branch before 11:59 PM on the due date!



## Class Participation

- To learn and benefit from this class, all of you need to participate
  - Asking and answering questions in class and on Slack
  - Participating in in-class exercises
  - Does NOT mean simply showing up in class
  - Use class time after lecture to try exercises by yourselves
- We will award bonus points for class participation (upto 5%)



## Other

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## Other thoughts

- Hope you have fun and learn too
- It's your responsibility to keep up in class
- If you're struggling, please let us know early so we can help you
- Feel free to give us feedback and suggestions for improvement etc. – these will NOT impact your grade in any way





## TODO for Today

- Find a partner to do the assignments with (teams of 3) and receive your Github repository.
  - Let us know about your team by end of the first class. Use the following google form to submit your group information:
  - 
  - <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeIAQmOP128c52w0Xi jHZ-6J8JxdJv33ov3E3uCG7n7dE1pzw/viewform>
  - 
  - We will then create a GitHub repository for your team, and all the members will be added as collaborators. Make sure you can work with it from your laptops/tablets



# Git Demo

1. Clone repository
2. Committing changes
3. Pushing/pulling changes from repository
4. Branching

## Useful Git Commands

```
git clone  
git pull origin main  
git push origin main
```



## Creating Branches

```
git branch assignment-X  
git checkout assignment-X  
git push -u origin assignment-X  
git checkout main  
git branch  
git branch -r
```

## TODOs for Today

- Node.js Setup
- Git setup



## Extra Resources on JavaScript

If you want to go beyond the VSP course:



1. “Eloquent JavaScript: A Modern Introduction to Programming” by Marijn Haverbeke
2. “JavaScript: The Good Parts” by Douglas Crockford (where JavaScript quiz is from)
3. “Programming JavaScript Applications: Robust Web Architecture with Node, HTML5, and Moderns JS Libraries” by Eric Elliott
4. “Effective JavaScript: 68 Specific Ways to Harness the Power of JavaScript” David Herman
5. “JavaScript: The Definitive Guide” by David Flanagan
6. “You Don’t Know JS” by Kyle Simpson