Syllabus, CMPSC 148, Winter 2026

Basic Facts

- Instructor: Prof Kate (Yekaterina Kharitonova), contact via EdStem
    - Prof. Kate is @Kate Kharitonova on EdStem, all TAs, Readers and ULAs are available there as well, and you can form group DMs
- Lecture: 11:00am-12:15pm MW. Attendance is required.
- TAs: (contact via EdStem)
- Mentors: (contact via EdStem)
- Lab (50 minute discussion section) Friday 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, Attendance is required – a lot of team work will happen in class.
- Office Hours: Instructor and TAs/Mentors will offer in-person and virtual student support hours. See the Calendar posted on EdStem!

For course resource links, please visit the course Canvas site, which also links to Gradescope, for submitting the HW assignments.

About the Course

The official course description states:

> Prerequisite: *Computer Science 32 with a grade of C or better*.
> ** Enrollment Comments: *Not open for credit to students who have completed Computer Science 48 with a grade of C or better*.
> **Repeat Comments: *CMPSC 148 is a legal repeat of CMPSC 48*.
> Team-based project development. Topics include software engineering and professional development practices,interface design, advanced library support; techniques for team-oriented design and development, testing and test-driven development, and software reliability and robustness. Students present and demonstrate final projects.

Make sure that you read this syllabus carefully and are aware of the course policies for this term. Do not automatically assume that the course is the same as the one that you or your friends might have taken before.

Final Course Grades

Class grades will be assigned based on performance on homework assignments, possible in-class assignments, points allotted for work in the Lab sections (toward the team projects), and points for the final project product and demonstration. There will be a peer-evaluation component based on contributions to the team as well.

To convert final averages to letter grades, a standard 10 point scale will be used, with the upper and lower ends of each range as +/- grades, except for A+ grades, see below. There is no “rounding up”; a grade of 86.9999 is a B and a grade of 87.0000 is a B+.

A+ grades: These may be awarded to the very best performing students in the class—but the cutoff for A+ grades will be determined at the end of the course at the discretion of the instructor (there is no pre-determined cutoff—an average of 97 or more doesn’t guarantee you an A+ grade.) The grade of A+ is based on my direct knowledge of your outstanding performance and participation as well as my ability to cite examples that illustrate how you went beyond the regular class expectations. Such knowledge can be gained by having several conversations during office hours, any outstanding extra work, your independent projects that use course material, and/or helpful and informed participation in class or on the forum, just to name a few examples.

Grade Item	Percentage of Final Grade
Hwks, In Class Assignments	25%
Project Grade (labs)	25%
Project Grade (final product)	40%
Team work component (assessed through peer evals)	up to 10%

Missing homework/in-class activities: Drop the lowest two

If you miss a class or the submission of any of the above deliverables, you miss the opportunity for the points on that deliverable that was due.

There is no makeup. In lieu of providing a makeup opportunity, we will drop the lowest homework/in-class-assignment grades (which may be zeros if you miss an assignment.)

Project Points

Information about project grading will be discussed in a separate document and released during week 2.

Late Labs

The policy is simple, and is based on the idea that the primary purpose of the deadlines is to allow you as well as the TA to manage workload. To eliminate “context switching” between different labs:

- If you want your work to be graded without penalty, turn it in on time.
- If you turn in your lab late, you RISK GETTING A ZERO.
- We will grade late labs ONLY if it creates no extra inconvenience for the graders, and we WILL impose a penalty between 10-20% (see the individual grading rubrics for the labs.)
- There is NO GUARANTEE that late labs will be graded at all. The TA will simply start work at some point after the deadline, and grade until they are finished. At that time, we will “close the books” on that particular lab, and any work not submitted at that time will NOT be considered.

Attendance

This course is, to a large extent, about *process*, including the process by which individuals work together on a team.

Our class meeting times are the only scheduled times our teams definitely come together to meet. So it is essential that you are here. If you absolutely have to miss class, please get notes from your classmates, check EdStem notes to see what you missed, and come to the student support hours to work through any material that’s not clear.

Questions about grades

Summary: homework regrade requests must be made only on GradeScope, and always within one week.

From time to time, we may make clerical errors in grading (e.g. adding up points wrong or applying a rubric incorrectly.) For this reason, you are encouraged to review your grades as soon as they are posted to Gradescope and Canvas. You will typically get an email as soon as each grade is posted. From the time the grade is posted, you will have one calendar week to submit regrade requests. Requests on homework regrading must be made ONLY through Gradescope, ON the correct problem. (Don't request a regrade for question 4 on the page for question 7.)

Please note that regrade requests based on clerical errors or applying a rubric incorrectly are always welcome. Over the course of the quarter, we'll grade thousands of individual problems, so it is unlikely that we won't make at least some mistakes.

More problematic are challenges to the rubric itself, e.g. "I don't think you should have taken off so many points for that error" or "I think I deserve more partial credit for that incorrect answer". The instructor and TA will always listen, but please know that we've put a great deal of thought, time and experience into determining the rubric, and we've done our best to apply it to all students equitably. You may have a different point of view, we will not always agree with your assessment—in fact, we seldom will. As such, regrade requests on this basis are not encouraged. It is important to approach such conversations in a respectful manner, accepting that the instructor, TA and grader have been given responsibility for determining course standards, and applying those in a fair way to all students.

Communication

For all course-related questions, please use the Discussions tab on EdStem. You can also post there anonymously to your classmates. Direct emails are discouraged and might not even be seen if "CS148" is not in the subject. *Note that we will always use only the official course platforms to reach out to you: posts on EdStem, Canvas, and ucsb email. If anyone contacts you through an unofficial channel claiming to be a mentor/instructor, offering to help you or to debug your code, please, do not interact with them and immediately send a message via Discussions to the Staff*.

Accommodations for disabilities

Students with disabilities may request academic accommodations for exams online through the UCSB Disabled Students Program at http://dsp.sa.ucsb.edu/. Please make

your requests for exam accommodations through the online system as early in the quarter as possible to ensure proper arrangement.

Managing stress

Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationships, depression, cultural differences, can interfere with the ability of students to succeed and thrive. For hopefully helpful resources, please contact UCSB Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) at 805-893-4411 or visit http://counseling.sa.ucsb.edu/ .

Responsible scholarship

Honesty and integrity in all academic work is essential for a valuable educational experience. The Office of Judicial Affairs has policies, tips, and resources for proper citation use, recognizing actions considered to be cheating or other forms of academic theft, and students' responsibilities, available on their website at: http://judicialaffairs.sa.ucsb.edu. Students are responsible for educating themselves on the policies and to abide by them.

Furthermore, for general academic support, students are encouraged to visit Campus Learning Assistance Services (CLAS) early and often. CLAS offers instructional groups, drop-in tutoring, writing and ESL services, skills workshops and one-on-one consultations. CLAS is located on the third floor of the Student Resource Building, or visit http://clas.sa.ucsb.edu

Standard Disclaimer

This syllabus is as accurate as possible, but is subject to change at the instructor's discretion, within the bounds of UC policy.

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Our Agreements

I am committed to learning your name and using correct pronouns; please, do not hesitate to correct me.

I am committed to treating you with dignity and respect in all our interactions.

I am committed to providing you with a safe environment in which you can share and discuss ideas with me and your peers.

I will provide you with a clear and organized course structure that will be as flexible as possible to support your learning.

I will provide you with a variety of assignments to ensure that our learning goals are met in a meaningful way.

I am committed to being available before and after class as well as during the scheduled times (in my office and on Zoom).

I will be happy to answer any questions you have, provide more examples, or provide any additional support that you may need.

You bring valuable experiences, languages, and community knowledge; we will draw on these in examples, pair programming, and projects. Your unique perspective, observations, questions, and explanations will help others see what they might not have thought about. Your interactions with your peers are also preparing you for later collaborative work, so treat these opportunities as a serious practice and preparation for your future success.

You will treat me, our course staff, and your peers with dignity and respect in all your interactions.

You will strive to be an active participant in the course and actively contribute to collaborative activities to help everyone learn from our collective ideas, reflections, and experiences.

You will aim to attend class on time and participate in the in-class discussions, code demos and reviews, and brief reflections to help build a supportive community and strengthen your own skills.

You will aim to meet due dates to ensure that you are keeping up with the material. Due dates pace our learning and help us manage our workload, however, if life gets in the way, you will reach out as soon as you can (via the forum) so that we can make a plan. (You understand that we will not be able to accommodate late requests during Week 10 and finals week, so please be proactive in reaching out in advance.)

You are committed to learning and persevering through the inevitable challenges that are inherent on this journey. Mistakes are data—we'll use them to grow. You are committed to being proactive in your learning and communication with me and your classmates.

You will use the various paths that are available in the course to ask for assistance: messaging on the forum, or joining the Student Support Hours sessions to talk to me and/or course mentors.

You will openly communicate directly with me to help me understand how I can better support your learning.