Slack

for Communication and Announcements in Academia

"Workspaces" allows you to focus on one course at a time

Slack - CSC 170

CSC 170
● Robert M Kostin

≡Q Jump to...

All Threads

Channels
announcements
chatter
help
🔒 ta-only

Direct Messages
💚 slackbot

Apps
● Google Drive

+ Add Apps

#announcements
☆ | 👥 104 | 🔖 0 | Course-wide announcements and academic-based

Mass notifications

Better than one-to-one support; everyone gets the benefit of answers

Back channel - private communication with groups

Tuesday, September 11th

Robert M Kostin 7:16 AM
@everyone I have to cancel in-person office hours today, Tuesday, September 11, due to an off-campus meeting this morning. As always I'll be monitoring Slack closely.

Wednesday, September 12th

Robert M Kostin 8:22 AM
@everyone Sorry but yet again, I have to cancel in-person office hours today. Use the #help channel in Slack if you a DM if you need anything else.

Also 1:05 AM today. If you have questions about Lab 4 before I get there, look for

Friday, September 21st

@everyone Although I said lecture attendance (or lack thereof) would *not* count against your grade, I've decided to implement a **bonus** if you maintain an 90% or better attendance rate *at the end of the semester*. (Don't be put off by whatever your rate is at this point. Remember: each lecture counts less we progress through the

0% or better, your THREE lowest lab assignment grades will be dropped

Excused absences include: an away game; a religious holiday; sickness (with confirmation from UHS); and maybe some other approved absences as defined by the University.

Message #announcements

Slack is a Communications Tool

- Any platform app: iOS, Android, MacOS, Windows, and Web
- Smartphone apps: good use of notifications; it's the mode students use most often
- One class, one semester = one Slack "Workspace"
  - Channels == messages/threads are organized & archived
  - Direct messages == private communication
- Why use it?
  - Questions via email == one-week delay
    Questions via Slack == almost real-time response
  - *Reminders and cancellations* → via Slack #announcements channel only

Benefits

For Students

- Slack: industry standard in technical companies ...currently

- Notifications: e.g. project is due; class is canceled

- Private groups: for team assignments, fast create, use, and then delete

For Instructors

- Ability to focus on one topic/course without distraction of everything at once

- Ability to process hundreds of messages instead of a few dozen emails

- Common questions answered by TAs, possibly answered by other students

- Easy mass-communication at a moment's notice

Shortfalls

- Reminders to re-direct from email or DM → [#help](#) channel

- Remember: it's not email – it's a post (keep it short!)

- Remember: don't be spammy - response time will vary

- Channels can get *noisy*
  - When responding to a post, need to remember to "start a thread" (not do the obvious thing)
  - Do NOT type and press enter! (ding, ding, ding, ding…)
    "Hi professor Kostin" <enter>
    "I'm having a problem with my project" <enter>
    " Can you help" <enter>
    "me?" <enter>
    …
    USE SHIFT-ENTER TO START A NEW LINE!!!

- Messages get lost (need to remember to "star" messages; and then look at your starred messages)