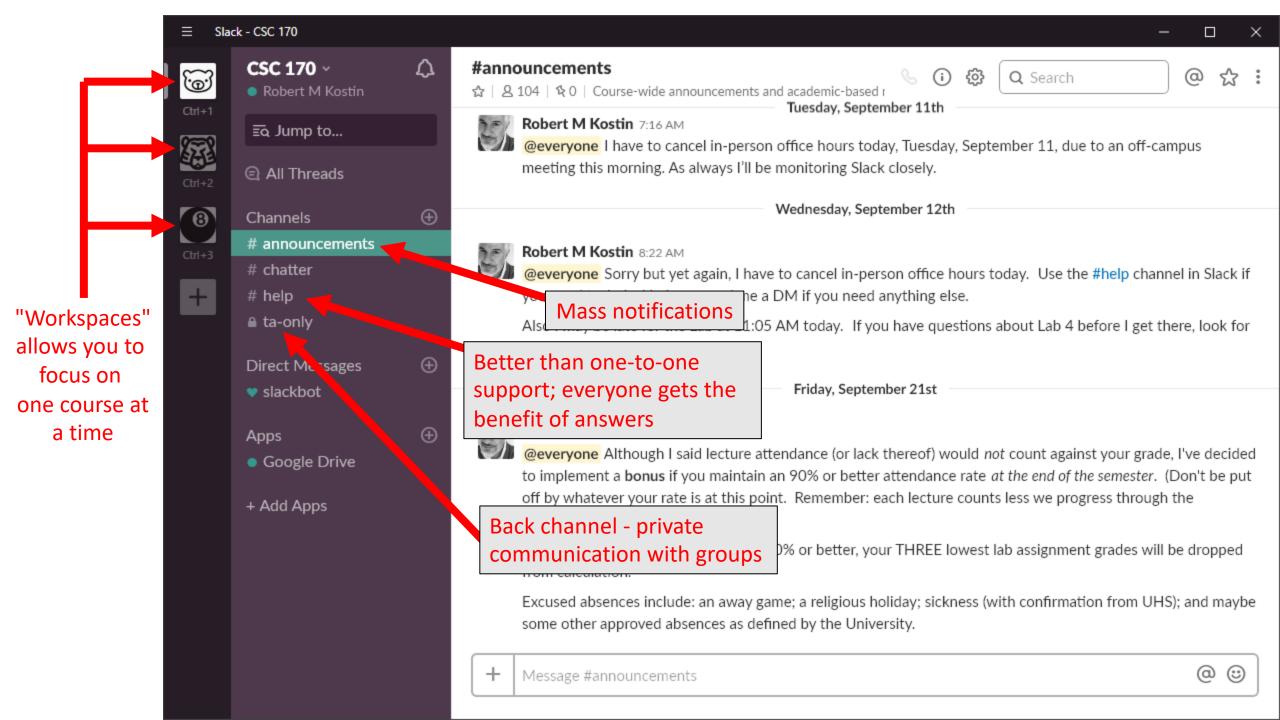
Slack

for Communication and Announcements in Academia



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)