



# Slack

for Communication and  
Announcements in  
Academia

Slack - CSC 170

**CSC 170** ▾  
● Robert M Kostin

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 i

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 need anything else.

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

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

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

Mass notifications

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

Back channel - private communication with groups

# 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)