

NYU- Tandon School of Engineering FAQs about CS GY 6083 B (Principles of Database Systems)

This document is to answer any general questions that any student might have related to the Principles of Database Systems course. It covers all aspects of the course including syllabus, software, project-related questions etc. Students are advised to go through this document first in case they have any questions. If it is not answered here, then only post your question to the **"Ask TAs and Professor"** forum.

The FAQs are categorized in four groups as below:

- A. *About syllabus and software installation***
- B. *About the project, DB, and programming background***
- C. *About attendance, recordings and participation***
- D. *About Graded and Ungraded assignments and exams***

A. About syllabus and software installation:

1. What additional materials will be covered if time permits?

If time permits you'll get to learn about a few additional topics - for ex: data security features such as column masking etc. More details on this will be provided by the professor in the class.

2. Which Operating system is better for installing software, Windows or Mac?

Between Windows and Mac, the better choice is Windows since the M1 chip can cause problems while installing/configuring some of the software.

3. Will NoSQL be covered?

Yes, if time permits some optional materials may be shared by the professor for those who are interested.

4. Are all exams open book?

Professor will let you know during the first class session.

5. Which XAMPP should be installed?

The latest version of XAMPP should be installed.

6. How to install Virtual box on a M1 chip Mac system?

MAC Big Sur 11 or with M1 chip may have issues for installing Oracle Virtual Box. In that situation, Install Windows 10 Virtual Machine on MAC , and then Install Oracle Database Express Edition (XE) on Windows 10 virtual machine. Document link has been provided for the same under the Software installation section.

7. What level of Operating System knowledge is required?

This course does not require in-depth knowledge of operating systems. Only basic knowledge like installing the software correctly and using it without any problem will suffice. Also all these will be explained by the professor during class.

8. I do not have any knowledge about databases, will it impact my performance?

This is a well-structured course for the beginners. This will cover all topics from basic to advanced. So, no prior knowledge is required, and it will not impact your performance. You will required to pay full attention to each class sessions and all course activities, graded or ungraded, to learn the subject meaningfully and practically.

B. About the project, DB, and programming background

1. Which programming language can be used for Project?

Any programming language could be used. The recommended programming language is PHP and if someone wants to learn about it, there is a list of tutorials under the Project content menu. Please do not wait and start learning. The recommended database is MySQL; however, you can use any RDBMS that you like to.

Content -> Project -> Programming tutorials

2. Can we do assignments in MySQL?

Yes, you can do assignments in MySQL or any other relational database system

3. Can we have a project team of two students?

Considering the scope of the project it will be challenging to get done all the functionalities achieved. Thus, we recommend doing the Project in a group of three. students.

4. Can I do the project individually?

Given the scope of the Project, it would be very challenging for an individual to complete the project. It is advised to do the Project in groups. Reach out to the Professor/TAs for special cases and reasons why you want to do the project individually. Unless any valid reason, each team must have three students (no less, no more).

5. Can we change project partners in project part 2?

It is not allowed to change the project partners in project part 2. Please choose your project partners carefully.

6. What if I don't have knowledge of any programming language, or very basic knowledge?

You can start learning languages in the first half of the course. PHP Learning material is given under the below path:

Content -> Project -> Programming tutorials

If you want to learn any other language, feel free to explore online tutorials or reach out to TAs for suggestions.

7. How will the project be graded?

The project will be graded on different aspects - Database Design, End to End working of the application, Additional features like SQL Injection, Number of features covered etc.

8. Will projects be graded for the group or individually?

The project will be graded individually. All the group members should be ready to answer any questions asked about the project during the project demo.

9. Is there any class presentation of the project?

NO. You will need to provide a demo of your project work during the final week of the semester term. You can review the sample project demo from

Content -> Project -> Sample Project Demo

10. How will the Project demo be conducted, when, and for how much time?

Project demo will be conducted over zoom. Each project team will have about 15 minutes to demo their project. It will be conducted around the end of the exam.

11. When will the project be announced?

The project problem statement will be announced in a few weeks (before mid-team). You cannot jump off doing a project from the first week, since you need to learn a lot of DB designing before it.

12. Can we decide which project to work on?

The project will be given by the professor. All student teams will work on the same. project, project business case will be announced in a few weeks (before mid-team).

13. Will the project team be assigned, or can we define our team ourselves?

Project teams are self-decided, i.e. you can come up with your project team of three students and when we ask to register your project team, please respond to that announcement (around the 2nd/3rd week of the semester term)

14. What should be included in the web application?

A detailed list of features will be given in the Project part 2 announcement. Go through the sample project demo to get an overview of expected features.
You can review the sample project demo from

Content -> Project -> Sample Project Demo

15. Is there any sample project to review?

You can review the sample project demo from

Content -> Project -> Sample Project Demo

C. About attendance, recordings and participation

1. Are we supposed to attend lectures in-person?

You are advised to attend the lectures in person. But in case of an emergency, you can go through zoom recordings on Brightspace. Students cannot join the class sessions live on Zoom.

2. What if I can't attend a particular lecture in person due to some reason?

You can watch the zoom recordings of that particular lecture on Brightspace under the zoom section if you cannot attend it in person. Students cannot join the class sessions live on Zoom.

3. Where can I find Zoom recordings of lectures?

You can find the zoom recordings on Brightspace under the **zoom section -> Cloud Recordings**.

4. Is participation counted as extra credits?

Participation points are the ungraded assignments that are mandatory for all students. Please go through the discussion forum and complete each respective topic to earn points.

5. What do participation points mean?

Participation points are the ungraded assignments that are mandatory, and you can find them under discussion forums.

6. Can I attend the class via zoom meeting?

No, you cannot attend class over zoom but it is advised to attend in person classes to understand the course thoroughly.

7. When will zoom recording be posted?

The zoom recording will be posted under the zoom section on Brightspace in some time after completion of each class.

8. Where can we find auto capture video of class sessions?

For accessing auto capture video of class sessions go to **Brightspace->More->Media Gallery**.

D. About Graded and Ungraded assignments and exams:

1. What does the problem set look like?

The problem will include creating schemas, ER diagrams, and writing queries. It will test your knowledge on how to use a data modeler and pose queries.

2. What if I miss the deadline for assignments?

Let the TAs and Professor know the reason for missing the deadline, also you'll be penalized.

3. Are the ungraded assignments compulsory?

Yes, and it'll be counted towards participation points

4. When is the midterm/final exam?

Please refer to the syllabus for the tentative dates for midterm and final exam..

5. Are all the topics included in the final exam?

Yes, you should be prepared for all the topics.

6. Are the exams in-person or over zoom or take home?

Exams are take-home, open-book over zoom.

7. Where can I find the solutions to the assignments?

You can find them in possible solutions under the content tab on Brightspace.

8. Will practice tests be provided for exams?

Yes, sample tests will be provided to you by the professor.

9. Are exams open book?

Yes

10. Will there be any extra credit to make up points?

You will get extra credit points for the project if you implement extra features. More details about extra credit on project part 2 will be available with the project part 2 requirement document, when project part 2 will be announced.