
2. **Course Description**

   This is the second course of a two-semester sequence, two credits each semester. Successful completion of the sequence will fulfill the student’s First-Year Seminar requirement. Course content during the first semester will focus on understanding various facets of Computer Science (CS) and how it relates to our lives. Students will be introduced to different concepts of CS, read and discuss articles, and discuss important matters in written work and orally, and implement interesting projects in small groups. Students will become increasingly familiar with and experienced in scientific discourse, scientific methods and scientific communication.

3. **Student Goals**

   - Develop writing skills for both informal and academic papers
   - Collaborate with fellow classmates regardless of opposing viewpoints
   - Become comfortable with the university information technology and computer science departments
   - Effectively self-assess academic progress
   - Critically examine and write about various CS-related issues
   - Develop introductory knowledge regarding a wide range of applications of CS expertise
   - Present a complex issue verbally to an audience of peers
   - Successfully communicate and collaborate with members in a group

4. **Detailed rubric**

   **Class prep & participation: 40%**

   Class participation is comprised of 2 elements:

   1) Collaborative study hall: students may use up to half of the class time to work with classmates on upcoming assignments for this or other classes.
   2) Website study and creation: Students will work together in small groups to create a website. The topic of the website will be decided in class with approval from the instructor. In order to create the site, students may spend class time constructing via templates found online OR work their way through internet-based HTML and CSS courses. It is also acceptable to blend those two strategies (i.e., use a template and use HTML/CSS to customize it). One suggested resource for these lessons is [https://www.codecademy.com/en/tracks/web](https://www.codecademy.com/en/tracks/web).

   **Community building activity: 15%**

   Students will attend the agreed-upon community building activity at the set date and time. If for any reason they cannot attend, this portion of the grade may be recovered with the completion of a 3-page paper, 12 point Times New Roman font, double spaced. Works cited should be in MLA, APA, or Chicago format. The topic of the paper is
“The importance of community building in the technology sector” and should include at least 3 outside sources.

**Final Presentation: 45%**

Students will present their websites to their classmates. They will highlight all elements and functional aspects of the site. They will also share the highs and lows of generating the site (i.e., What was difficult? What went well?). Each student in each group should explain and present a different part of the project. Students will answer questions and consider input from classmates regarding the project. Sites should be devoid of profanity and obscene content.

5. **Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory and factored into the student’s grades in the form of class participation. Students should email the teacher in advance if they plan to miss a day of class. Full credit is assigned to students who fully participate in activities in class. Students who are absent receive a 0, students who present a doctor’s note for missed classes will have the 0 removed from the final grade calculation. Absent excusal is at the discretion of the instructor.

6. **Academic Integrity**

Any student submitting somebody else’s work as their own, or copying their own old work (whole or in part) to a new submission, will receive a grade of 0 for the assignment and potentially the entire course. In particularly drastic cases, plagiarism can lead to expulsion from the University. The instructor will not tolerate dishonesty and make no exceptions to this policy. Please protect yourself and the instructor from this unpleasant business by being honest and submitting only your own work. It is perfectly acceptable to cite and quote other authors, but **you must clearly identify these parts as citations or quotes**. If you do use quotes, you will be graded on your own synthesis, not on the quality of the work you are citing or quoting. Assignments with evidence of plagiarism cannot be resubmitted.

7. **Student conduct**

Students are required to adhere to the University Policy on Academic Standards and Cheating, to the University Statement on Plagiarism and the Documentation of Written Work, and to the Code of Student Conduct which is available online at: [http://www.umb.edu/student_affairs/programs/judicial/csc.html](http://www.umb.edu/student_affairs/programs/judicial/csc.html)

8. **Disabilities**

Section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 offers guidelines for curriculum modifications and adaptations for students with documented disabilities. If applicable, students may obtain adaptation recommendations from the Ross Center for Disability Services, M1401 (617-287-7430). The student must present these recommendations and discuss them with each professor within a reasonable period, preferably by the end of Drop/Add period.

9. **WPE**

Students wishing to use papers from this course for the university writing proficiency exam should contact the professor by email with their request (including specific plans for their foreseen timeline and assignment choice) by the 4th week of classes. The professor reserves the right to refuse WPE requests. See: [http://csit285-f-potasznik.wikispaces.umb.edu/Can+I+use+a+CS-IT285+paper+for+my+WPE+portfolio%3F](http://csit285-f-potasznik.wikispaces.umb.edu/Can+I+use+a+CS-IT285+paper+for+my+WPE+portfolio%3F)