

15-437 / 15-637: Web Application Development

Spring 2018 Syllabus

January 16, 2018

(updated 1-18-18 & **4-10-18** to correct typos & update schedules)

This course will introduce concepts in programming web application servers. At the conclusion of this course you will understand the fundamental concepts of software engineering and how they apply to web application design and programming, will know the modern tools used to program web application servers, and will be able to produce substantial web applications as part of a team. This course will introduce web application concepts primarily using Django/Python technologies, and you will be able to generalize these concepts to other web application technologies and tools.

During the first part of the semester we will have a series of homework assignments in which you build an increasingly sophisticated web application. The second part of the course will focus on a larger project, in which you will design and implement a substantial dynamic web site of your choice as part of a project team. At the conclusion of your project you will demonstrate your web site to the course staff. There will be a single test: a final exam.

Course Meeting Times

This course will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3pm in Wean Hall Room 7500. Final project presentations will be scheduled outside of normal meeting times, during the week of April 23rd.

Important Dates

Homework assignments will typically be due on Mondays at 11:59pm.

First homework is due on January 22nd (at 11:59pm).

Final project presentations will be the week of April 23rd.

Final exam: During “exam week -- could be as late as May 14th. => **Now scheduled for May 7th at 5:30pm, location TBA.**

You must be present for the final exam. If you must schedule travel plans before the registrar announces the final exam schedule, do not leave campus before May 15th.

Course Staff

Instructor:

Jeffrey Eppinger (eppinger@cmu.edu), Office: WEH 5124

Teaching Assistants:

Harry Cheng (lcheng1@andrew.cmu.edu)
Summer Kitahara (skitahar@andrew.cmu.edu)
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Vivian Wang (vivianwa@andrew.cmu.edu)

TA Office Hours will be posted on Canvas and will usually be held in WEH 5120.

Course Topics

The expected lecture schedule, subject to change, is as follows:

Date	Lecture Topic	Date	Lecture Topic
1/16	Introduction	3/13	Spring Break
1/18	HTML & CSS	3/15	Spring Break
1/23	JavaScript & DOM	3/20	Bootstrap
1/25	HTTP & Django	3/22	Transactions
1/30	Cookies & Sessions	3/27	Sprint #1 Presentations
2/1	Quiz & Discussion	3/29	Sprint #1 Presentations
2/6	Forms & Templates	4/3	Internationalization
2/8	Authentication	4/5	SSL
2/13	Models	4/10	Sprint #2 Presentations
2/15	Files & Images	4/12	Sprint #2 Presentations
2/20	AJAX	4/17	Scalability
2/22	jQuery & WebSockets	4/19	Spring Carnival
2/27	Cloud Deployment	4/24	Project Demos
3/1	Databases & E-mail	4/26	Project Demos
3/6	Project Proposals	5/1	Review for Final
3/8	Project Proposals	5/3	Best Project Awards

Textbooks

This course has no required textbooks as information about the topics covered in this course is readily available on the internet, but you might find the following texts to be useful references:

- **The Definitive Guide to Django: Web Development Done Right, 2nd edition.**
Holovaty and Kaplan-Moss. Apress, 2009.
 - A bit outdated, mostly references Django 1.0. Good if you want an offline reference for basic concepts, but not as good as the online documentation for newer versions of Django.
- **Pro Git.** Chacon. Apress, 2009.
 - Free online at <http://git-scm.com/book>.

Grading

Your course grade will be determined approximately as follows:

- 30% Homework
- 40% Final project
- 30% Final exam

These percentages may be adjusted, with notice, if quizzes or other class participation components are added to the computation of your grade.

Late Homework Policy

We understand that normal student-life events -- including projects and exams in other courses -- can interfere with your ability to complete your work on time. Therefore, in most cases, you may request a short extension on your homework assignment via Piazza using the following procedure:

- Create a private post
- Provide your Andrew ID
- Specify when you want to turn in your assignment
- Tell us the reason why you need the extension
- Please try to post your request before 5:30pm on the date the assignment is due.
- Be sure to post your extension request before 11:59pm on the due date.

Additional information:

- Requests made by 5:30pm on the due date will usually get a response shortly after 5:30pm. Requests posted after 5:30pm but before 11:59pm may not receive a response until the next day. Requests made after the due date will not be accepted (unless you get a letter from the Dean of Student Affairs indicating that you have extenuating circumstances).
- Requests for small numbers of late days will generally be granted.
- Generally, for short extensions, there will be no points deducted on homework assignments.
- We will keep track of the number of late days we grant to you.
- Students that are granted late days give up their right to complain about having the highest course average in their grade bracket. The more late days you use, the greater the likelihood you will have the highest course average in your grade bracket.

- Students with the fewer late days will be able to signup earlier for project demo times.
- Students requesting a second extension must do so before the end of their first extension. The number of late days used in a second extension will be counted 2:1. (So a grant of 2 additional late days in a second extension will be count as 4 more days in our totals.)

We reserve the right to update this policy if it's not working out.

Late Project Policy

If you are unable to demonstrate your course project at the scheduled final presentation time, you may discuss with the professor the possibility of demonstrating your project the following week with a reduction in your project grade.

Collaboration Policy

You should read and abide by the University Policy on Academic Integrity,
<http://www.cmu.edu/policies/student-and-student-life/academic-integrity.html>.

For homework assignments, you are encouraged to talk with and share ideas with other students, including examining and critiquing others' solutions. You must independently create and turn in your own unique work. In particular, you may not copy another student's files or let another student copy your files. You may use external resources (books, internet sites, etc.) as references, but you may not copy files or substantial parts of files from external resources, and you must clearly cite any external resources you use. Citations should be in a README.md file at the top-level folder of each homework assignment and project you turn in via GitHub.

You are encouraged to collaborate with your partner and with other students for your course project. All project deliverables, however, must be completed by you and your partner. You may not copy another project's documents or code for your project solution, or use substantial external code or documents obtained from any third party such as an Internet site.

Here are some examples of behavior that are inappropriate:

- Copying files or parts of files (such as source code, written text, or unit tests) from another person or source.
- Copying (or retyping) files or parts of files with minor modifications such as style changes or minor logic modifications.
- Allowing someone else to copy your code or written assignment, in draft or in final form.
- Getting help that you do not fully understand, and from someone whom you do not acknowledge on your solution.
- Writing, using, or submitting a program that attempts to alter or erase grading information or otherwise compromise security of course resources.
- Copying someone else's files containing draft solutions, even if the file permissions are incorrectly set to allow it.
- Lying to course staff.

- Copying prose or programs directly.
- Giving copies of work to others.
- Making your work publicly available in a way that other students (current or future) can access your solutions, even if others' access is accidental or incidental to your goals.
- Coaching others step-by-step without them understanding your help.

There are of course some gray areas, such as receiving help you don't fully understand or copying generic, boilerplate UI designs or configurations from the internet. In general, you should ask the instructor if you have any questions or concerns about the policy, or if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your own past or potential future actions. ***When in doubt, ask the instructor.***

The minimum penalty for violating this policy will be a zero grade for the assignment in question, and ***all*** cases will be referred to the appropriate university disciplinary board. Be warned that the university disciplinary actions for cheating can be very harsh, especially in response to cheating by a graduate student. Note: There is no statute of limitations for violations of the collaboration policy; penalties may be assessed (and referred to the university disciplinary board) after you have completed the course, and some requirements of the collaboration policy (such as restrictions on posting your solutions) extend beyond your completion of the course.

Well-being Statement

Be well. This course is actually meant to be fun. Our late policies are designed to reduce stress. If you're so behind that you're about to cheat (or help someone else cheat), please go do sleep and come see me in the morning. We'll work something out.