



Syllabus

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Overview

Welcome!

In Spring 2021, CS10 is expanding upon last fall's teaching plan to better support students and encourage participation during this unusual online offering of the course. Special thank you to John DeNero and the CS61A team for writing the original document which this was based on.

This course allows time conflicts!

Collaboration, Not Competition

You are encouraged to form study groups and work together to understand course material, but (unless specified otherwise) all your graded work should be your own. Academic integrity and ethical conduct are of utmost importance in the College of Engineering and at UC Berkeley, especially with online offerings. We want to remind you that this course is graded on an absolute scale – that means that there will be no curve at the end of the course, so you don't have to feel the pressure of having to cheat to get your A. You're competing against an absolute scale, and you can all (in theory) receive A+ grades! (Though, we might need to make small bin adjustments if the GPA of the class is below the department suggested range, so we might adjust your score up, but it'll never be adjusted down).

Flexibility and Community

Online classes taught during a time of wildfires, power outages, and a worldwide pandemic need to have policies that support students in different living situations, and in different time zones. They need to have a way that the students can get to know each other, learn from each other, and study with each other. They need to have a way the course staff can get to know their students, and (most importantly) check in with them to make sure their health and learning is going ok. The deadlines need to have flexibility in case a student or team needs some more time to finish a project or homework. We believe we have built all of that into our class this semester.

Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning

Research (and anecdotal evidence) have shown that students who keep up with the material every week do better than students who fall behind, start projects late, and have to cram for each exam at the last minute. So, as much as you can, attend our face-to-face live session (Mon @ 11am PST ... but Wed when Monday is a holiday) + a discussion (3 different times) synchronously. However, you will not be penalized for being in a time zone that makes that difficult, and you will find recordings of these sessions available. The only required synchronous elements are a weekly 15m check-in with you and three other students with video on (with exceptions on a student-by-student basis), but will have many times throughout the day available for that, and getting your lab checked off at a lab section.

Sections

Course Elements

We have a few different components to this course, all of which we have tried to optimize for online learning.

Lectures

Lecture content has been pre-recorded with high production value. There will be questions to answer via PrairieLearn after every lecture, for which you will earn credit. On Mondays at 11 AM, there will be a **live** weekly summary lecture on Zoom with Dan. All content will be the same as in the recordings, but in less depth. You are required to watch the recording and encouraged (but not required) to attend the live sessions. If Monday is a holiday, the live session will be Wednesday. The live session will also be recorded.

Lab

Location: Discord. We will have three labs scheduled through the day to be sensitive to differences in time zones. Lab attendance is encouraged and will be counted towards extra credit, but is not mandatory. However, labs are required to be checked off at one of the lab sections (i.e. synchronously). If you are unable to attend any of the sections, please contact Shannon.

Discussion

Location: Zoom. Discussion content will be pre-recorded. However, we will also have three live discussion sections. Discussion attendance is encouraged and will be counted towards extra credit, but is not mandatory.