

University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley) - Fall 2015

CS 186: Introduction to Database Systems

Syllabus

Course Information

Staff

Resources

Description

The design, use and implementation of databases. The focus is on core ideas in databases and how they are used to manage persistent state for applications.

General Information

Location

MW 5-6:30 in 155 Dwinelle

The lectures will be recorded by ETS and posted a few hours after lecture.

Grading

3 Midterms, 15% each, no final

5 Projects ("Homeworks") totaling 45%

Roughly weekly quizzes ("Vitamins") totaling 10%*

The percentages are subject to change as circumstances dictate.

Active participation in piazza and/or section can positively affect your final grade. Since exams are the main indicators we have of individual grasp of the material, we reserve the right to adjust final letter grades based on exam performance. In particular, students who do not achieve a passing average on the exams will not receive a passing grade in the class.

Work that you submit must be your own (or for two-person projects, the team's). We will run the standard software duplication checkers on submitted assignments. We will be following the EECS departmental policy on Academic Honesty, so be sure you are familiar with it. And hey -- don't cheat. Not cool.

*(Lowest 2 Vitamin scores will be dropped)

Textbook

Database Management Systems 3rd Edition
by Ramakrishnan and Gehrke.

Project (Homework) Policy

hw1: 5% hw2: 8% hw3: 10% hw4: 10% hw5: 12%

Four slip days total (rounding up to integers, with no questions asked), -25% per day afterwards

For group projects, slip days will be deducted from each member's remaining slip days.

Announcements [show all](#)

Discussions this week are Office Hours!

11/30/15 4:44 PM

Discussions this week will *not* be normal discussions, but instead extra **Office Hours!** Please come by if you have any last minute questions/comments/concerns. Good luck studying and hope you all had a restful break :)

P.S. Room partitioning is now on the Midterm 3 post; please go check where you're taking your midterm on Wednesday!

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[View on Piazza](#)

Midterm Reweighting (Opt-in)

11/24/15 5:17 PM

UPDATED November 30th

Two clarifications/refinements:

- We will normalize the scores before weighting, so that all three have the same average and stddev. This makes the relative difficulty of the midterms not an issue.
- We will compute grades for those that opt out (normal weighting) *as if everyone opted out*. Thus they get the same grade they would have gotten without this policy. (This will slightly raise the class average.)

(You should opt-in if you think your one or both of your previous midterms was *low and not representative*; this gives you a chance to show that was the case.)

If you so desire, you may choose to redistribute the midterm weights for your own final grade as follows:

MT1 = **10%** of your final grade

MT2 = **10%** of your final grade

MT3 = **25%** of your final grade

This will be an **opt-in policy** - if you do not do anything, your midterms will be weighted as before (15% each). To opt-in, you must fill out this form and answer 'Yes' when prompted: <https://goo.gl/WybNvO>

Send yourself a copy of your responses. You have until **4:00 pm on Wednesday, 12/02** (exactly one hour before the midterm) to change your decision. You **cannot** change your decision or opt in after this time, regardless of how it will affect your grade.

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[View on Piazza](#)

Thanksgiving Week Logistics

11/22/15 9:09 PM

Discussion Sections / Office Hours

Happy Thanksgiving! This week, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday will be non-instructional, and discussion and office hours will not be held on those days. Office hours on Monday will be held as usual, and Tuesday discussion sections will be converted into office hours for more opportunities to get help on midterm topics and/or the homework.

Here is a complete list of Tuesday office hours (some sections have been rescheduled, and each has a preference for topics):

Midterm: 10-11 am, 102 Latimer [Ajay]

Project: 10-11 am, 283E Soda [Pete]

Midterm: 1-2 pm, 241 Cory [Michelle]

Midterm: 2-3 pm, 12 Haviland [Michelle]