Personal Responsibility in the Classroom
CMPE 110: Computer Architecture
Winter 2018

Over several years of teaching, we (the instructional staff) have come to the conclusion that we need to give you (the students) a concrete set of expectations both in terms of what we expect from you, and what you can expect from us. While this document is certainly incomplete and will not be able to cover all possible scenarios, we hope that you will use it as a set of guidelines to properly set your expectations, and thus endeavor to meet them.

Student Responsibilities

1. You are an adult, and we expect you to behave like one. Your success (or failure) is your own responsibility.
   (a) It is your responsibility to learn the material covered in the class
   (b) It is your responsibility to adequately prepare for the class, e.g., reading and assignments.
   (c) It is your responsibility to turn in assignments on time, in the right format, in the right place, and to verify that you did so (especially for electronic submissions).
   (d) It is your responsibility to know and remember the date, time, and location for exams; failure to show up means you get a zero on the exam.
   (e) It is your responsibility to try and solve problems by yourself first, if you cannot, then it is your responsibility to seek help.
   (f) It is your responsibility to ask questions if something is unclear or you don’t understand.

2. Time management is your responsibility. You will need to figure out how to allocate your time to cover all that you need to do.
   (a) You will need to manage your distractions and prioritize your work.
   (b) You need to start your assignments with enough time before the due date to complete them; extensions to deadlines should never be expected.
   (c) You may submit one homework late during the quarter, no more than two days (48 hours) after the original due date.
   (d) We don’t need to know why you are turning in the assignment late.
   (e) If you have some exceptional circumstance that would require you to turn in a second assignment late, we to know this at the time that it is occurring or as soon as humanly possible (electronic contact is fine). If you ask for a second extension, we will ask why you took the first one.

3. It is your responsibility to come to lecture, pay attention, and take notes. Slides, lecture recordings, etc. are provided as a courtesy, and not guaranteed.
   (a) It is your responsibility to get to lecture on time.
   (b) It is your responsibility to come to lecture ready to learn. This includes reading the assigned material before the lecture in which it’s discussed.
   (c) Don’t expect that watching the lecture videos or reviewing the handout notes to be the same as being in lecture.
   (d) If you have feedback, give it directly and in a timely fashion (we are always trying to improve the quality of our instruction).
   (e) Office hours and TA sessions are for additional questions and/or feedback.

1Thanks to Gabriel Elkaim, Darrell Long, and Maxwell Dunne (and others) for their input on this document.
4. You do not deserve any particular grade; it is up to you to demonstrate mastery of the subject.
   (a) In general, you will get out of the class what you put into it.
   (b) Minimal effort on your part results in poor learning.
   (c) There are others who want/need to take this class; if you are not willing to do the work, withdraw and let someone else into the class.

5. We strive to grade assignments, quizzes, and materials as fairly as possible. However, it’s possible that we made an error in grading your assignment (we’re human too!).
   (a) Regrade requests will only be handled in person during office hours.
   (b) Mathematical errors on our part will be immediately resolved.
   (c) Any work you did which we somehow missed will be graded appropriately.
   (d) Forgiveness for carelessness on your part is very limited.
   (e) For all other regrade requests, we will regrade your entire assignment or exam. Subjective calls on points for a given piece of work will be balanced against all such subjective calls on all your work, and you agree to accept the new grade, whether higher or lower than your original grade.

6. You are expected to conduct yourself with respect, dignity, and bearing commensurate with a student of an institute of higher learning.
   (a) This applies to both in person interactions as well as online.
   (b) This applies to conduct with your peers as well as conduct with your instructional staff.

7. The time and effort required to succeed must come from you; no one else can do it for you.
   (a) You are here voluntarily; no one is forcing you to take this class.
   (b) You will learn the material both in lecture and outside of class. Learning takes time and effort.
   (c) You will get out of your education what you put in.

Expectations of the Instructional Staff

We will do our very best to:
1. Show up to lecture and section on time, with the material prepared.
2. Be both clear and precise in our requirements.
3. Accept your feedback (both positive and negative) in a professional manner.
4. Be fair, consistent, and impartial in our grading and evaluation.
5. Do our best to deliver the material in a way that can be reasonably understood.
6. Maintain the rigor of the class and assessments we use.
7. Conduct our interactions with respect, dignity, and professionalism at all times.
8. Consistently work to improve our instruction and maintain the quality of the learning environment.

I have read and understood this document.

Signature: ___________________________ Date: ________________

Name: _____________________________ CruzID: _______________@ucsc.edu

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