

Course Syllabus

Information At-A-Glance

Instructor	
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Office Hours:	WF 1-3 PM or by private meeting

Instructor	
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Course Email
cs003x@caltech.edu
All course-related email goes here.

Course Website
https://cs3x.sof.tware.design
Visit early. Visit often.

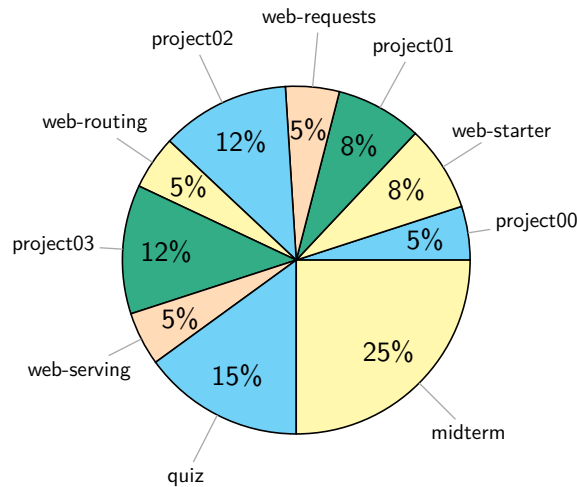
Lecture
ANB 105
MW 9:00 – 9:55 AM

Course Overview

Prerequisites: CS 2

CS 3x is a practical introduction to the C programming language. Throughout the term, students will work individually on one large pre-defined project that is separated into individual chunks that increase in complexity. Heavy emphasis is placed on self-ownership of code, learning the C programming language, debugging, and writing readable software. Prior experience with the C programming language is NOT expected or assumed.

Assessments



Projects

The projects are the heart and soul of this course. We prefer the term *project* to *set* because all the individual parts of the assignment will come together to create a single finished product that we hope you will be proud of. The projects will be exclusively programming assignments. Some parts will be auto-graded via sets of unit and integration tests we have designed to catch most of the common mistakes. Your final grade on each project will be determined based on correctness and code quality. All code for these projects will be due at 11:30 PM on Fridays.

Throughout the term, you will iterate on a code base for a web server. In the first week, you will write some code to orient yourself to C; in the second week onwards, you will add features or data structures weekly to a codebase we've started for you.

Exams

There will be 3 written in-person summative assessments: a quiz, midterm, and final. The quiz and midterm will be given during a lecture period. **On each assessment, approximately 50% of the questions on these assessments will be pulled directly from in-class exercises.** These assessments might involve code.

The final exam will be held **in-person** during the final exam period. It will be cumulative, with an equal emphasis on all the material in the course. If it helps your grade, the final exam will fully replace the *sum* of your quiz and midterm scores.

Collaboration Policy

See our “collaboration table” on the website. We reserve the right to modify or clarify this policy as needed. Notably, you may not, under any circumstances, look at another student’s code.

Late Policy

We’ve designed a late policy that is very intentional in providing flexibility while also making sure students do not fall so far behind that they might not be able to pass. Please see below for details. To handle our policy, we have written a tool that will tell you what options are available to you at any given point:

<https://caltechcs.fillout.com/extensions>

Please do not e-mail us asking for an extension. You must use the website form. There are limits and restrictions on extensions which the form outlines. Please read these before you need an extension! This flowchart outlines common scenarios in which a student may need an extension:

