CSE480 - Database Systems

Syllabus (Fall 2021)

Course Description
Storage of and access to physical databases including indexing, hashing, and range accesses. Relational data models, database design principles, query languages, query optimization, transaction processing and recovery techniques. Object-oriented and distributed databases.

Grading
There will be 1000 points distributed throughout the course via homework assignments and one exam. There will be no extra credit points.

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<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>900-1000</td>
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<td>850-900</td>
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Requirements To Receive A Passing Grade
To be eligible to earn a non-zero grade in the course, a student normally must do ALL the following:

- Earn at least 50% (150 of 300 points) of the total points on the exam.

Important: Contact your instructor, if you have any concerns about your performance in the class.

Course Platforms
This course will use the Mimir system to deliver all homework assignments. Grades for homework assignments can be found in that system. Weekly videos stored in MSU’s MediaSpace will be linked to this course website and are found by following the Schedule link.

The exam which will be given approximately 2/3rds through the course will be delivered using the CSE Handin system. Students will be monitored while taking the exam using zoom.

Homeworks
There will be at least 13 weekly homeworks (through Mimir). The homeworks are intended to be straightforward if you have viewed the lectures. Only your top 10 homework scores will count toward your final grade; all others will be dropped. The counted scores will each be worth 700 points for a total of 70% of your final grade. Homeworks are always due the Monday or Thursday after they are assigned at 10pm. Homework assignments must be submitted prior to the deadline to be graded.

Exam
The exam will occur approximately 2/3 of the way through the semester (see the Schedule) and will cover all of the material to that point. It will be worth 300 points (30% of your final
grade). We will have a practice exam at least one week before the actual exam that will closely resemble it so that you know exactly what to expect. There will be no final exam.

The Spartan Code of Honor Academic Pledge

As a Spartan, I will strive to uphold values of the highest ethical standard. I will practice honesty in my work, foster honesty in my peers, and take pride in knowing that honor in ownership is worth more than grades. I will carry these values beyond my time as a student at Michigan State University, continuing the endeavor to build personal integrity in all that I do.

Collaboration On Coding Assignments

Each assignment submission is electronically and manually compared to all other solutions (in this course and previous offerings) to identify similar solutions.

Under no circumstances should you share any part of an assignment solution with another student. Simply showing your solution to another student almost guarantees detection by the plagiarism software; past experience shows that a student who asks to "look at" your solution will copy parts of it or pass it along to someone else who copies it.

Plagiarism (unsourced use of other’s intellectual property) is not allowed. However, citing and using other’s works is generally fine (please ask if uncertain) as long as the material wasn't made specifically for solving assignments for this class. Additionally, the use of material from previous semesters and code from other students in the class are explicitly instances of academic dishonesty. Intellectual collaboration with other students in the class is allowed, but each student should write (and not share) their own code. If a student submits code that they don’t understand, such is also an act of academic dishonesty.

Academic Dishonesty

Because a goal of this course is to teach professionalism, any academic dishonesty will be viewed as evidence that this goal has not been achieved, and will be grounds for receiving a final grade of 0.0. Examples of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to):

- Copying another student’s code or exam answers
- Using code implemented by someone else intended to solve this class’s assignments (i.e., don’t get someone else to do your assignment for you).
- Using code independently implemented by someone else without attributing credit (i.e., you can use tools, libraries, or code snippets from the web, but only with proper citation.)
- Writing code that deceptively passes the test cases, but doesn’t solve the problem given. In other words, abusing automatic grader mechanisms to gain unearned points.
- Using websites and sources, whose purpose is to provide assignment solutions (e.g. using sites such as Chegg.com for any purpose regarding this class).
- Distributing course content without instructor permission.
- Having someone that isn’t an instructor or TA aid you in implementing a solution to an assignment or exam.
- Submitting a solution that you don’t understand / can’t explain to an instructor.
- Using assignment solutions provided to a previous iteration of this course.
- Providing false information to the instructor about matters related to the course.
- Facilitating another student in any of these activities.

See Academic Dishonesty and Attribution for more details.

Grief Absence Policy

If their occur unfortunate circumstances that would lead you to have unexpected absences, MSU has a Grief Absence Policy. You need to contact the Associate Dean, and we will make every effort to aid you in continuing the class after we recieve confirmation from the administration.
Incomplete Grades
According to the university, the grade of "incomplete" is reserved for "exceptional cases, where an unanticipated event beyond one's control interferes with a student's completion of course requirements."

Regrades

Requests for regrading can go in either direction; we are often generous when we first grade something, so please be sure that we did make a mistake before you submit your request. On the other hand, our goal is for you to understand the course material, so we will always be willing to explain to you any portion that you are stuck on. All requests for regrades must come within one week of the return of the graded item. Thereafter, no requests will be considered, so be sure to pick up your returned assignments on time.

Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities
Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD. Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a verified individual services accommodation ("VISA") form. Please present this form to me at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (exam, project, etc.). Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

Commercialized Lecture Notes
Commercialization of lecture notes and university-provided course materials is not permitted in this course.

General Note
The goal of this class is for you to learn. If you find that anything is coming in your way of that goal, please talk with us about it. We plan to keep the class flexible to the learning styles that seem to work best for the students, so feedback is always appreciated.