

CSCI 5930: Revised syllabus for second half of spring 2020

Taught by Dr. Erin Chambers

1 Format of the rest of the semester

1.1 Remaining lectures

Given internet issues (and my own home logistics), I don't want to rely upon zoom lectures. Instead, I'm going to share several lectures by a colleague of mine, Erik Demaine, which are of higher quality than I can provide. I'll be pulling from this page: <https://ocw.mit.edu/courses/electrical-engineering-and-computer-science/6-851-advanced-data-structures-spring-2012/lecture-vid>. Expect one per week(ish), and I'll send instructions via email.

1.2 Remaining homework

Knowing how challenging many of you found prior homeworks, and how many of you said working collaboratively was key, I'll relax on that third homework. Expect some sort of assignment, but likely I'll focus on something essay-based. It will be assigned in a week or two, covering the remaining topics assigned via video. The homework grade will still be roughly half of your total score in the class.

1.3 Final project

The final project remains the most significant part of the remaining grade, as planned. I hope reduced lecture time and a shorter homework will give you more flexibility and time to focus on making the most of it despite all the issues, and I'm happy to let you work individually or in pairs (depending on your internet and willingness to schedule Skype/zoom collaborations).

I'd like to modify slightly the dates and expectations:

- Project proposal will be due April 2 still, via email to me. See the course homework page for discussion on this.
- I will schedule a follow-up discussion with each of you via zoom to finalize topic and discuss any groups. (This follow up discussion is worth participation credit, and will replace part of that last homework grade.)
- Projects will still be due by the date/time of our final exam. I will schedule a zoom for us all during the final exam time, so you can each briefly present your project. If you can't manage that, we can discuss recording or something else. I'm hoping this represents a chance to practice digital presentation - this is clearly a key skill we should all be working on anyway!

1.4 Course communication

I plan to continue to use email and my own webpage at <https://cs.slu.edu/~chambers/spring20/advancedDS/index.html> for class communications the rest of the semester. I'll also continue using email to collect homework or answer questions.

I'll be using zoom during our usual Monday and Friday class time as an open office hours or discussion time - invite to come via email. I'm also available at other times, so please reach out if you need to discuss anything!

2 Updates to SLU statements

2.1 Disability Services

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations must contact Disability Services to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Once successfully registered, the student also must notify the course instructor that they wish to access accommodations in the course. Please contact Disability Services at Disability_services@slu.edu or 314-977-3484. Students are encouraged to schedule an appointment through EAB Navigate. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information about the student's eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors via email from Disability Services and viewed within Banner via the instructor's course roster. Note: Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one are encouraged to contact Disability Services. Link: <https://www.slu.edu/life-at-slu/student-success-center/disabilityservices/index.php>

2.2 Student Success Center

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available. The Student Success Center utilizes Zoom to assist students with academic-related services. Students can visit the Student Success Center website to learn more about Tutoring Services, University Writing Services, Disability Services, and Academic Coaching. Link: <https://www.slu.edu/life-at-slu/student-success-center/index.php>

2.3 University Writing Services

Students are encouraged to take advantage of University Writing Services in the Student Success Center; getting feedback benefits writers at all skill levels. Trained writing consultants can help with writing projects, multimedia projects, and oral presentations. University Writing Services offers one-on-one consultations that address everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. Students have the option to complete an online submission (for asynchronous feedback) or to schedule a live video conference. Both can be scheduled through EAB Navigate. For more information, visit the Student Success Center or email writing@slu.edu.

Link: <https://www.slu.edu/life-at-slu/student-success-center/academicsupport/university-writing/index.php>