CSC-324, Syllabus

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This course combines software development theory with handson practice on a real project prototype. You will collaborate with your group to develop an actual project prototype and deliver it to a community partner. To help you build background knowledge, we emphasize theory in the first few weeks, but you will progressively work and focus on the group project. **Course Outcomes.** Develop technical skills, a background in software development, and collaborative practices to help you advance your career. Also, make a substantial beginning or addition to your professional portfolio.

Instructor Info

Fernanda M. Eliott, Ph.D. (she/her/hers), eliottfe@grinnell.edu

An Intensive Course, Challenge Yourself!

- This course demands at least 20 hours of work per week.
- You will spend about 10 hours in addition to the scheduled class and lab periods. Look at your schedule and make sure to reserve at least 10 hours per week to focus on this course.
- It is crucial to follow the class activities and work with your group actively.
- Main topics covered in this course: a) Software design principles and software development practices. b) A variety of languages and related frameworks. c) Technical skills to develop both an individual and a group project.

Textbooks

- Software Development, Design and Coding: With Patterns, Debugging, Unit Testing, and Refactoring 2nd ed. Edition. John F. Dooley
- Ruby on Rails Tutorial (Rails 6), Michael Hartl.

Learning Objectives

1. Apply Agile software development methodology, tools, and practices in real-world team projects.
2. Build SaaS applications with the Ruby on Rails framework and apply those skills on a project.
3. Gain experience with the complexities of real-world software development:
    - Communicating with clients;
    - Working as part of a team;
    - Emphasizing self-directed technical learning;
    - Creating a substantial project from scratch, or learning and extending an existing code base;
    - Making design decisions that may have long-term consequences;
    - Addressing practical and ethical dilemmas.

Grade Setup

- 30% Group Project.
- 30% Individual Project.
- 20% Ethics Poster.
- 20% Portfolio.

Course Instructions

- Course Webpage.
- This is an online course. To access its content, log into Pioneer-Web, and click on the "Start here" button.
- In the first week of classes, you MUST access the "Start here" button and submit the activities described there.
- Synchronous activities on Zoom.
- The lab time is reserved for work time and project meetings (MS teams).
- Group work: only ONE report *per* group.

Community

- **Coffee Chats** once a week: a space for us to chat and have informal conversations the same way as we would during those 10-20 minutes before/ after class. (Optional.)
- **TeaM Chats** are designed to help to build community and meaningful interactions. Each group must socialize and spend at least 10 minutes (every week) to chat about non-course related topics.
- **Monday motivators** will be sent your way every week to help you keep track of the course content and activities.

Policy - Expectations

- **Team Spirit.** Collaborate, respect, be friendly, and learn from your peers. Disagreements may happen, and those play an essential role in your self-development: see those as an opportunity for developing your soft skills.
- **Interaction.** You are expected to interact and stay in constant communication with your group. (At least two meetings a week, and one TeaM chat).
- **Communication.** In online settings, successful group projects over-communicate.
- **Active Role.** If you cannot make it to a group meeting, let them know as soon as possible and find ways to be helpful.
- **Evaluations.** At the end of the course, group members will rate each other. That will influence your final grade.
- **Honorable Conduct.** We appreciate privacy, honorable conduct, and team spirit (kindly read our Academic Integrity Policy. Never record your classmates or share any content that does not follow the instructions provided by your instructor.

Life Events

Circumstances may change. If you experience anything that impacts your learning and/or promptness to submit the deliverables, let me know, and let me help you. The most important message here is communication.

Accessibility and Inclusion

- I am here to help you advance and be successful in your academic journey! We all learn and get inspired differently, and accommodations help us to achieve our goals.
- If any aspect of the course prevents you from learning or excludes you, please let me know as soon as possible! I am happy to chat and looking forward to finding, together with you, strategies that fulfill both: your needs and the course requirements.

- Grinnell College has a robust and supportive network of people and services ready to support you; for example: the Accessibility and Disability Services; Writing, Reading, Speaking Center; Academic Advising; Student Affairs, including International Student Affairs (OISA); the Center for Religion, Spirituality and Social Justice (CRSSJ); or Student Health and Wellness (SHAW); finally, confidential support is available through the Office of the Ombuds.

Religious Observances

- Kindly contact me if you would like to talk about alternative options to complete academic work due to religious holy days.
- Since this class will incorporate class discussions and working sometimes in pairs or groups, it is important that I know you will be absent ahead of time so that I can adjust the assignments.

Acknowledgments

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