CSC326 Course Overview

CSC 326 Fall 2026

Dr. Sarah Heckman

1



2

Dr. Heckman



Director of Undergraduate Programs &

Acting Executive Director of the Data Science & AI Academy

- Teaching Professor, NC State, 2020-present
- Teaching Associate Professor, NC State, 2015-2020
- Teaching Assistant Professor, NC State, 2009-2015

Research interests: help-seeking, self-regulated learning, empirical computing education research & large-scale replications(!)

3

3

Course Structure

Grade Item	Weight	Timeline
Onboarding Project	25	August 20 – October 13
Team Project	45	October 15 – November 23
Midterm Exam	15	October 12
Final Exam	15	December 4 from 8:30-11:00 am

See Syllabus and Course Policies for detailed on each item.

© NC State Software Engineering Faculty

4

4

Course Communication

- Course materials
  - Linked from Moodle and from course website (https://courses.csc.ncsu.edu/csc326)
  - Reminders at the start/end of class
  - Textbook
- Grades will be in Moodle
- Questions
  - Ed Discussion
  - Teaching Staff Mailing List:
    - csc-326-001-fall-2026-support@wolfware.ncsu.edu

You are responsible for keeping track of course milestones through the various dissemination platforms.

© NC State Software Engineering Faculty

5

Administration

- Section 201 – Thursday 8:30a-10:20a
- Section 202 – Thursday 10:40a-12:30p
- Section 203 – Thursday 12:50p-2:40p
- Section 204 – Thursday 3:00p-4:50p
- Section 205 – Thursday 5:20p-7:10p

We will have lab THIS WEEK! (August 20th)

Labs will be in person. Attendance is mandatory.

© NC State Software Engineering Faculty

6

Attendance for labs is important.

- Why? Because you are working in teams.
- Fill out the Excused Absence Request form (go.ncsu.edu/csc326-absence) to request an excused absence from lab or exams.
- If you're sick, stay home! You'll be expected to participate in other ways. You can call your team via Zoom. Fill out the Excused Absence Request Form.
- Attendance is associated with success!

© NC State Software Engineering Faculty

7

Attendance Policies & Penalties

- Lecture
  - Attendance will be taken through Moodle.
  - Missing *more than* 5 lectures Moodle check-ins will result in a 5 point deduction on the final grade.
    - The easiest way to not have this issue is to come to class!
  - The only time you need an excused absence for lecture is for an exam. Otherwise, the absence counts as one of the allowable absences.
- Lab
  - Attend every lab possible.
  - If you are not feeling well, communicate as follows:
    - Notify instructors/TAs via Excused Absence Request Form (go.ncsu.edu/csc326-absence)
    - Notify team via appropriate communication channels
    - ***Timely*** communication is important here!
  - Missing more than 2 labs with unexcused absences will result in a 5 point penalty on your final grade. Any additional unexcused lab absences will be an additional 5 points off your grade for each absence.
  - Excessive requests for excused absences are not allowed. A third excused absence request may not be approved.

© NC State Software Engineering Faculty

8

Professionalism

- Students are expected to act professionally both in person and electronically with all members of the teaching staff and with their classmates.
- Professionalism includes participation on team aspects of the course
- Unprofessional actions may result in suspension from platform, conference with the instructor, removal from teams, and possible grade penalties.
- Written correspondence (including comments):
  - Expected to be (mostly) grammatically and syntactically correct.
  - Spell checked.
- Outside class and online platform interactions should also be professional
  - Harassment will not be tolerated.

© NC State Software Engineering Faculty

9

Academic Honesty

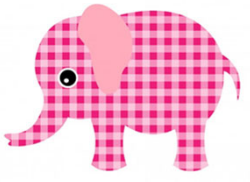
- Don't use work from uncited sources (no cheating)
  - See syllabus for citation examples and allowed list of resources/references
- Expected to cooperate on projects with ***assigned teammates*** (Onboarding Project & Team Project)
  - … not on solo items
- Default penalty:
  - Zero on the assignment
  - Reported to Office of Student Conduct



© NC State Software Engineering Faculty

10

Use of Generative AI



- Exams: Prohibited
- You'll be allowed to explore agentic AI use as part of CSC 326.
- What's allowed or not allowed will be described for each assignment or deliverable.
- In some cases, you'll be asked to do some initial work without AI and then asked to do additional work with AI and reflect on the experience.
- If you prefer not to use AI, you can complete activities in alternative ways. Details will be in the activity.
- Teams will draft a team AI policy
- You'll set up your own local AI system. We encourage you to explore free (to student) options, but you're welcome to use paid frontier models.

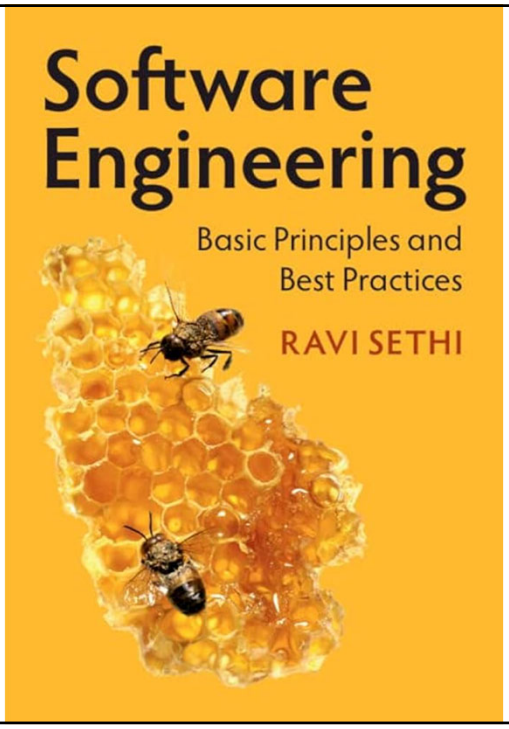
11

11

Textbook!

Excellent resource to supplement the lecture material

There will be suggested readings and/or exercises to help with midterm and final exam preparation



12

12

ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct

- Updated over Summer 2018
- Complements Academic Integrity and Professionalism syllabus information

- https://www.acm.org/code-of-ethics

© NC State Software Engineering Faculty

Extra Credit!

- Software engineering education is available *beyond the classroom*!
- Options (all approved options will be announced by instructors)
  - Participate in a Software Engineering research study
  - Attend a CSC seminar and submit a 1-2 minute video about the talk
- Participation in the first activity is 1 point on the midterm.
- Participation in a second activity is 1 point on the final.
- Participation in a third activity is for fun.
- You can participate in two research studies, two seminars, or one of each.

© NC State Software Engineering Faculty

New: GitHub.com but NC State Login

github.ncsu.edu

- This service is gone.
- Let us know if you find any links to these pages so we can correct them.

github.com

- This service is phasing in.
- Your username is **unityid_ncstate**
- Use **ncstate-csc-coursework** organization
- ***You'll submit your projects here!***
- Guided Project and Project repositories will be created for you.
- Set up SSH Keys to access as specified here: GitHub Cloud information

15

15

GitHub Interactions

- All Onboarding and Team Project work will be submitted through NC State's Cloud GitHub (http://github.com).
- You will be assigned teams/repositories for your use during CSC 326.
- The last submission before the assignment deadline to the main branch will be graded for technical deliverable points, but other branches, commits, and other project artifacts (issue tracker, pull requests, wiki, documentation) will be considered to evaluate process, contribution, and other assessable project components.

© NC State Software Engineering Faculty

16

16

Upcoming Items of Interest

- Undergraduate Research Lightning Talks
  - Friday, August 21st, from 1:00pm to 2:30pm in EBII 3211
  - Not considered a seminar (no extra credit), but great for finding out more about research and independent development projects

© NC State Software Engineering Faculty