

Syllabus in Fall 2019 for CS 499 Senior Seminar

Contact Your Instructor

Name: Jeff Kinne

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Office: Root Hall A-140D (Kinne)

Lecture, Exam, Office Hours

Lecture: MW 10-11am Root Hall A-017

Section and CRN: 51845

Credit Hours: 1

Exam: Dec 9 10-11:50am

Also check the [Office of the Registrar's exam schedule](#)

Instructor Office Hours:

Jeff Kinne - MW noon-3pm, TR 9-11am

Tutoring: See <http://cs.indstate.edu/info/labs.html>

Website: <http://cs.indstate.edu/~jkinne/cs499-f2019>

Instructor/class Directories (cs.indstate.edu):

`/u1/h0/jkinne/public_html/cs499-f2019/code`

Prerequisites

C or better in CS 202 and senior standing. The course is meant to be taken during the last semester before graduating.

Standard text

The text [Cracking the Coding Interview by G. L. McDowell](#) (any edition) is recommended. In addition, students practice coding interview questions on the accompanying website <https://www.hackerrank.com/>

Students present current topics. One source for such topics is the *Communications of the ACM*, available online at <http://cacm.acm.org/>.

Students also work on professional skills, including interviewing and writing a resume. The resources of the Career Center, <http://www.indstate.edu/career-center>, are used and course notes/advice in this document and linked off the CS homepage <http://cs.indstate.edu/info/>

Course Announcements

Announcements regarding the course will be made both during class and via email to your @sycamores.indstate.edu email address. You should regularly check this email account or have it forwarded to an account that you check regularly.

Classroom conduct

You may not use cell phones, iPods/music players, etc. during class. You should be civil and respectful to both the instructor and your classmates, and you should arrive to class a few minutes before the scheduled lecture so you are ready for lecture to begin on time. You may use your computer during class if you are using it to follow along with the examples that are being discussed. You may not check email, facebook, work on other courses, etc. during class.

Course Description

The catalog description for this course is

“The senior seminar is taken by students in their last year. The course prepares students for the process of applying for and interviewing for jobs or a graduate program. Students also present on current topics in computer science.”

The senior seminar is the culminating experience of the CS major and also fills the university requirement of a significant experiential learning experience at the end of the major. Students complete a professional resume, apply for jobs, practice interview questions, review key CS content, present on a current topic in CS, take a programming assessment that must be passed before graduation, and complete an exit interview to give feedback on the CS program and courses.

Students in CS 499 take the CS programming assessment and must pass the assessment to pass the course. See https://cs.indstate.edu/wiki/index.php/Policies#Programming_Assessment for details.

An estimate of the minimum number of “engagement hours” needed to complete the course - 60 hours total as follows - 10 class sessions of 1 hour each, 10 hours creating a resume and applying for jobs, 10 hours researching a current topic in CS and presenting to the class, 30 hours improving coding skills to pass the programming assessment.

Course Outline

- I. Resume writing
- II. Interview skills
 - Soft skills
 - Technical questions
- III. Current topics in computer science
- IV. Program assessment and exit interview

Learning Outcomes

- Able to evaluate a resume for good style, formatting, and content, and make updates accordingly.
- Able to communicate clearly about ones experiences in computer science.
- Able to solve problems for a technical computer science interview and communicate the solutions.
- Able to construct and organize an online portfolio for use in applying for jobs.

- Able to work in a team on a shared project.

Expected Amount of Work

If you take this class seriously and get what you should out of it, some weeks you will likely be spending around **5 hours** on the class. The students who get A's in their CS courses and have an easy time finding jobs do spend this much time on this course. Not everyone would need to spend this much time and not all weeks will be the same, but you should plan on putting in whatever time it takes. Note that the federal government definition of 1 credit hour as requiring 2 hours worth of time on the course for each credit hour of lecture, so you should think of this as the default for all of your courses.

Note - your classes should be more important than your part-time job.

Grading and Assignments

The students of this course have the following responsibilities: attend weekly seminars, write a resume, search for jobs, practice interview skills, complete program assessment and exit interview. The course is graded pass/fail.

CS Course Policies

Note that this course follows all standard CS course policies. In particular check the CS course policies related to - cheating/plagiarism, attendance, missing exams. See <http://cs.indstate.edu/info/policies.html> for details.

Late Homeworks

Late work on programs/HWs will not be accepted.

Start Homeworks Early

We suggest attempting a homework assignment the day it is given, or the day after, so that if you have a problem you can ask early. If you continue to have problems in trying to complete the assignment, you will have time to ask again. Many of the homework assignments require thought and problem solving, which takes "time on the calendar" not just "time on the clock". By that we mean that spending two hours on 3 consecutive days may be more productive than trying to spend 6 hours at once on the assignment.

Grade Cutoffs

We try to design homework assignments and exams so that a standard cutoff for grades will be close to what you deserve. After the first exam a grade will be created in Blackboard called "Letter Grade" that is what your letter grade would be if the semester ended today. Initially, I will likely assign the following grades: 93-100 A, 90-93 A-, 87-90 B+, 83-87 B, 80-83 B-, 77-80 C+, 73-77 C, 70-73 C-, 67-70 D+, 63-67 D, 60-63 D-, 0-60 F

Our goal is that the different grades have the following rough meaning.

A+/A

You can do *all* the assignments *on your own*.

B+/A-

You understand nearly everything, and should be all set to use this knowledge in other courses or in a job.

B-/B

Most things you understand very well and a few you might not (more towards the former for a B and more towards the latter for a C).

C/C+

Learned enough and have the minimum skills to move on in the subject.

D+/C-

You did put some effort in, and understand many things at a high level, but you haven't mastered the details well enough to be able to use this knowledge in the future.

D-

Students will normally *not* get an F if - you attend 80% of the lectures, complete some of the assignments up through the end of the course, and get nearly half of the problems on the final exam correct.

F

Normally, students that get an F simply stopped doing the required work at some point.

Blackboard

The course has a blackboard site. Click [here](#) to go to blackboard. You should see this course listed under your courses for the current term. The blackboard site is only used for giving you your grades (go to the course in blackboard, then click "My Tools", and then "My Grades"). All course content, schedule, etc. is kept in this google doc (which you are currently viewing).

Academic Integrity

Follow the standard CS course policies in terms of what is and is not allowed on assignments:

<http://cs.indstate.edu/info/policies.html>

Please ask the instructor if you have doubts about what is considered cheating in this course.

Special Needs / Student Disabilities

Standard language included in the syllabi for ISU courses.

Indiana State University recognizes that students with disabilities may have special needs that must be met to give them equal access to college programs and facilities. If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact us as soon as possible in a confidential setting either after class or in my office. All conversations regarding your disability will be kept in strict confidence. Indiana State University's Student Support Services (SSS) office coordinates services for students with disabilities: documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Student Support Services is located on the lower level of Normal Hall in the [Center for Student Success](#) and can be contacted

at 812-237-2700, or you can visit the ISU website under A-Z, [Disability Student Services](#) and submit a Contact Form. Appointments to discuss accommodations with SSS staff members are encouraged.

Once a faculty member is notified by Student Support Services that a student is qualified to receive academic accommodations, a faculty member is obligated to provide or allow a reasonable classroom accommodation under ADA.

Disclosures Regarding Sexual Misconduct

Standard language included in the syllabi for ISU courses.

Indiana State University fosters a campus free of sexual misconduct including sexual harassment, sexual violence, intimate partner violence, and stalking and/or any form of sex or gender discrimination. If you disclose a potential violation of the sexual misconduct policy I will need to notify the Title IX Coordinator. Students who have experienced sexual misconduct are encouraged to contact confidential resources listed below. To make a report or the Title IX Coordinator, visit the Equal Opportunity and Title IX website: <http://www.indstate.edu/equalopportunity-titleix/titleix>.

The ISU Student Counseling Center – HMSU 7th Floor | 812-237-3939 | www.indstate.edu/cns

The ISU Victim Advocate – Trista Gibbons, trista.gibbons@indstate.edu

HMSU 7th Floor | 812-237-3939 (office) | 812-230-3803 (cell)

Campus Ministries - United Campus Ministries | 812-232-0186

<http://www2.indstate.edu/sao/campusministries.htm>

www.unitedcampusministries.org | ucmminister2@gmail.com

321 N 7th St., Terre Haute, IN 47807

For more information on your rights and available resources

<http://www.indstate.edu/equalopportunity-titleix/titleix>