Syllabus: CS 279 Problem Seminar - Fall 2023

Class Time:	Tues @ 2:30pm – 3:50pm in Taylor 302
Website:	http://csweb.wooster.edu/dguarnera/cs279/
Professor:	Drew Guarnera (dguarnera@wooster.edu)
Office:	Taylor 313
Office Hours:	MTWF by appointment

Textbook: None

Course Description: This course provides the opportunity for students to practice solving challenging computer science problems. Traditionally, this course culminates in participation at a local (OWU, Denison, etc.) or regional (ACM ICPC) programming contest. Details about available contests will be made available to you once finalized. We will hold a mock programming competition at the end of the semester.

Course Goals: Upon completion of this course, a successful student will:
- understand the format and expectations of a programming competition
- apply collaborative teamwork to solve programming problems in groups

Prerequisites: None

Required Course Materials: Laptop Computer (running either Windows, MacOS, or Linux) and a writing utensil.

Grading: Your final grade will be calculated as follows.

100%	*Engagement* - Each class session is worth three points. For full credit you must:

- Attend class on time
- Participate in group work/discussion
- Work on the problem sets

You are only eligible for the three points if you attend class on time. If you are not participating in the activities and working with your group to solve problems, you will not receive full credit for the day. You CANNOT make up engagement points.

This class uses the standard grading scale:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
93%	90%	87%	83%	80%	77%	73%	70%	60%	below

Pass/Fail option. Students are permitted to elect the equivalent of four courses (in addition to Senior Independent Study) graded S/NC out of 32 courses required for graduation [excluding courses taken S/NC in Spring 2020, Fall 2020, and Spring 2021]. The minimum equivalent grade to earn S in courses graded S/NC is C-. The deadline for electing a Pass-Fail grading option is one week after final grades are posted.

Course Drop. Students may drop any course without petition by Tuesday, September 26, 2023. Students may drop a course with petition by Friday, December 1, 2023. The minimum enrollment of 3.0 credits remains in effect. Requests to drop enrollment below 3.0 credits will require additional documentation via Other academic petitions.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. We only meet once per week and the seminar is all about regular practice, so missing even a single session means you will go 2 weeks without practicing solving problems and is grounds for a grade of NC. If you cannot attend one of our sessions, let me know *before* the session if you wish to be excused. Per college policy, a student may not miss more than 25% of class meetings (e.g., ~3.5 weeks of class for a full-credit course in fall/spring semesters), through any combination of **excused and unexcused absences**. If this occurs, the instructor will notify the Dean for Curriculum and Academic Engagement and the Dean of Students for consultation.

Technology: Our class works best when we use our devices to further our learning. Only use technology during class time to enable, rather than to distract from, our learning and community building. During class, you will need a laptop to submit your code. Bring your laptop every day.

Communication: Communication is the key to success. Contact me as soon as possible if you have questions, or issues arise. The best way to contact me outside of class in by coming to my office hours, or asking a question via email. I primarily read emails between 9am and 5pm Monday through Friday. Please allow at least 24 hours response time for any communication. While I usually respond faster, but you should not rely on this. Please keep in mind when contacting me over the weekend that the response time may be longer (allow for roughly 48 hours).

Accommodations: Your success in this class is important to me. We all need accommodations to learn effectively. If there are aspects of this course that prevent you from learning or exclude you, please let me know as soon as possible. You do not need to share specifics, but we can work together to develop strategies to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course, and to identify specific resources that may assist you.

Names and Pronouns. All people have the right to be addressed and referred to in accordance with their personal identity. We include pronoun introductions to avoid gender-based assumptions and to ensure that the correct pronoun is used when referring to you. I will do my best to address and refer to all students by the names and pronouns shared in class, regardless of what is listed on the roster, and I support classmates doing so as well. In this class, you will have the chance to indicate the name that you would like to be called and, if you choose, to identify pronouns with which we would like to be addressed. The name and pronoun(s) that you use may change and, if they do, please let us know you would like us to change how we address you. If you are interested in changing your chosen name and pronoun(s) in the College of Wooster system, you can find additional information [here](). If you would like, you can also add the phonetic spelling & pronunciation of your name in your Moodle Profile:
- add the phonetic spelling of names in your Profile under "Additional Names"
- and you can record pronunciation under "Description" (using the microphone button to record).

Class Policies: For this class to be effective, you must be an active learner. You are expected to contribute to each class session. This includes arriving on time, actively working on in-class activities, asking questions, and answering others' questions. Students that are successful in this course are those who are responsible in their preparation. This means reading the assigned chapters, checking the course website for updates and upcoming deadlines, and completing assignments in a timely manner. Behavior that is discouraged includes, but is not limited to, disrespectful interactions such as yelling/cursing, intolerant language, tardiness, and misuse of technology for purposes unrelated to the class. Students that do not abide by the standards for classroom interactions by engaging in behaviors which disrupt and distract in the learning environment will be subject to the procedures laid out in Scot's Key.

Academic Integrity: You are expected to know and abide by the rules of the institution as described in The Scot's Key and the Handbook of Selected College Policies (found [here]()). Dishonesty in any of your academic work is a serious breach of the Code of Academic Integrity and is grounds for an F in this course. Such violations include turning in another person's work as your own, sharing code, copying from any source without proper citation, and violating expectations for a group project. You may discuss **ideas** with your peers. Sharing solutions, your code, or accepting code from other students is not allowed under any circumstance. If you are unsure what is permissible, please contact me with any questions.

Additionally, my expectation is that you will not use any artificial intelligence (AI)-powered programs (e.g., ChatGPT or DALL-E) to help you with your assignments for this course. Any use of AI-generated work to outline, write, create, or edit your assignments will be considered an academic integrity violation. These programs may provide inaccurate or biased information, but more importantly, they do not serve your development as a student. In this course you will learn valuable skills from outlining, generating, and editing your own work. If you have any questions about this policy or are not sure if a resource you have found will violate this policy, please ask me.

Conflicts with Academic Responsibilities: When conflicts arise between academic commitments and complementary programs (including athletic, cultural, educational, and volunteer activities), students, faculty, staff, and administrators all share the responsibility of minimizing and resolving them. The College expects students to give the highest priority to their academic responsibilities. As a student you have the responsibility to inform me of potential conflicts as soon as you are aware of them, and to discuss and work with me to identify alternative ways to fulfill your academic commitments without sacrificing the academic integrity and rigor of the course.

Title IX: The College is committed to fostering a campus community based on respect and nonviolence. To this end, we recognize that all Wooster community members are responsible for ensuring that our community is free from discrimination, gender bias, sexual harassment, and sexual assault. In accordance with Title IX, Wooster is legally obligated to investigate incidents of sexual harassment and sexual assault that occur on our campus. Faculty who become aware of an incident of sexual violence, including harassment, rape, sexual assault, relationship violence, or stalking, are required by law to notify Wooster's Title IX Coordinator. The purpose of this disclosure is to ensure that students are made aware of their reporting options and resources for support. For more information about your rights and reporting options at Wooster, including confidential and anonymous reporting options, please visit here.

MCS Department: The College of Wooster is committed to inclusive excellence in undergraduate education, and our department seeks to actively foster a welcoming learning environment in which diversity and individual differences are valued, respected, and celebrated. Diversity comes in many forms, including but not limited to, race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, religion, age, and physical and/or mental abilities. The diversity that students and staff bring to the classroom is an invaluable resource, strength, and benefit to everyone at the College of Wooster. As such, we are vigilant and attentive about issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the classroom. Expressions or actions disparaging others are contrary to the mission of the department and will not be tolerated.

Additional Resources. Please view the course website for additional links and resources, including information on Moodle, the Academic Resource Center, Library Support, health and safety guidelines, Title IX, and discriminatory or bias-related harassment reporting.

We're All Human. Let's all practice empathy, kindness, and understanding - towards each other and ourselves. Although every effort has been made to make this syllabus as complete as possible, changes may occur regarding the course schedule, grading, assignments, and office hours. I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus and other course resources if necessary. Any changes will be communicated in a timely manner.