

# Welcome to CSCI 333

Storage Systems

**Spring 2021**

# Course Logistics Presentation Overview

- Discuss course structure
  - Pre-recorded "lectures"
  - Synchronous "conferences"
  - Virtual office hours
  - Methods of evaluation
  - Midterm Exam
  - Thought Questions
  - Programming "labs"
  - Final Project
- Road map for first week
  - What to watch/do before our next conference

# Lectures will be Pre-recorded

Links to lectures will be "announced" on GLOW

My aim is for two types of videos:

- Summary/preview of unit (short, ideally watched first)
- Unit content (longer, supplements readings)

Videos will be posted at least 24 hours in advance of conferences

Why this structure?

- Can watch slow/fast, can comment, can rewatch
- We can spend our meeting time actively engaging

# Conferences will be Synchronous

Your chance to ask questions and work through problems

Conferences are a "new" experiment, but I imagine they will often include:

- (All) Answer general questions about material
- (All) Thought questions/discussions about material
- (Tu) Activities to practice/reinforce course content
- (Tu<sub>/Th</sub>) Demos/live coding
- (Th) Work on lab assignments

# "Office" Hours

- Virtual help hours will be advertised on the the Help Hours Google calendar
- Be aware that the time zone for these events is EST.
- Zoom has been the most user-friendly and smooth experience
  - You must authenticate using your Williams ID to avoid “zoom bombing.”
  - Links will be associated with calendar events for ease-of-reference
  - Note that you can dial-in on the phone if your internet is unreliable:  
<https://zoom.us/zoomconference>

In addition to my office hours, we have a full-time course TA (Nathan Thimothe)

# Feedback & Evaluation

This class is "*ungraded*"

Your grade will be determined based on your own self-assessments of your learning in the course, with the possibility of adjustments up or down by me

- I will give feedback on assignments and assessments
- You will submit a mid-semester and an end-of-semester evaluation
- You will also submit (guided) reflections along with each assignment
- Ask yourself: How can I direct my efforts to best **learn the material**?
  - I want you to invest in your learning, not optimize for a short-term gain

# Labs

3 "Lab" assignments

- Lab 1: Small C programs and designing correctness tests
- Lab 2: "Hello FUSE" (small pseudo-filesystem)
- Lab 3: FUSE ReFS (long, multi-staged lab)

Learning by doing is important in CS

Collaboration is important in the real world

- Labs 2 & 3 are collaborative

In addition to completing the coding/functionality requirements, you must read/write **documentation** and **tests**

# Final Project

You will complete one project of your choosing

- You may select a topic and propose your own project, or
- You may select/revise a project from a set of ideas I provide

You will write a proposal that defines the scope and success criteria, which we will agree upon

- Historically, my job has been to rein you in

Final projects are your chance to "dive deep" into a topic that interests you. Keep ideas in mind as we explore the material!



# Technologies & Typical Workflow

- GLOW is home for
  - announcement when videos are posted to course webpage
  - "ungraded quiz"/surveys (when appropriate) for discussion thought questions
  - Midterm exam
- Course webpage is home for
  - Readings (already posted for semester)
  - Lecture videos/slides (posted 24 hours in advance)
  - In-conference activities (accessible during conference)
  - Post-conference notes (posted during/after conference)
  - Lab assignments
- GitHub (*not* GitLab): repository distribution, collaboration tool
- Slack: Ongoing discussion throughout the week
- Zoom: TA/office hours, remote conferences
- Loom: video feedback/code review

# Learning & COVID-19

- This is a completely new course design, but one chosen intentionally to match our situation
  - There may be bumps and adjustments as we learn more
- I want you to learn a lot in this course, but I *really* want you to stay healthy and happy... so
- I will never judge you if you reach out to me with struggles or challenges
  - The sooner you reach out, the easier it is for us to make adjustments
  - Don't wait until you have an issue—we can talk "strategies" proactively
- I hope you are willing to extend that courtesy to me
  - if (when?) I encounter challenges, I will do everything I can to make sure they don't negatively impact you all

# Todos

- Read through the Syllabus and ask questions
- Complete Lab 0: Environment (i.e., Set up a Virtual Machine)
  - Please complete before next conference
  - Let me know ASAP about license so you are able to get started
    - Does anyone \*not\* want a VMware license?
- Getting-to-know-you form
- Join the course's slack workspace
  - [cs333-s21.slack.com](https://cs333-s21.slack.com)
- Complete readings & watch Tuesday's lecture video(s)
  - Look out for GLOW announcement
- (Attend Friday's colloquium on summer research if interested)