

Freshman Orientation to Computer Science and Engineering
CSCE 10 – Pass/No Pass Only – 0 Credit Hours
Fall 2015

Coordinator

Prof. Charles Riedesel, Chief Undergraduate Advisor –
Computer Science & Engineering
259 Avery Hall
chuckr@unl.edu
402-472-3486

For calendar go to <http://cse.unl.edu/~riedesel> and follow link to appointments; drop in or email for confirmation of meeting time

Teaching Assistant

Christian Jungck (cjungck@yahoo.com) SRC W 1:30-2:30
Bryan Melland (bryanmelland@gmail.com) SRC R 3:30-5:20
Steven Schindler (sdschindler@yahoo.com) TBA

Course Materials

Syllabus and other materials will be posted at either
<http://cse.unl.edu/~riedesel/pub/cse10> or
on Piazza – <http://piazza.com/unl/fall2015/csce10/home>

Catalog Description

CSCE 10 - *Introduction to CSE*: Required pass/no pass course designed to help incoming first-year CSE students in their transition into the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the Computer Science and Engineering department. The course introduces various departmental resources and policies, explores possible career paths, fields, and opportunities available to a computer scientist or computer engineer. Assignments may include attending department orientations and lectures, a student organization meeting, and on-campus activities including Career Fair, E-Week, and Research Fair.

Course Organization

Class will be held weekly from 5:30-6:20pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays throughout the semester. An expected 250 students will be enrolled,

approximately split 150 - 100 Wednesday – Thursday respectively. The room, Avery 115, is quite large and the sections will be handled the same, so students are welcome to switch back and forth, noting that Wednesday's 150 is capacity for the room. Attendance rosters will be handed around the room during each session.

This is not a typical lecture course. No text is required. Activities will be experiential in nature and include tours, interviews, events, and projects, generally with follow-up reports and essays for submission and grading. Class sessions will include guest speakers and panels, especially panels of students who will share with you their experiences at UNL, in organizations, work, research, etc. These sessions will be informal and interactive.

Note that the 0 credit hour load makes the course tuition free, but the amount of work to be expected will be closer to that of a 1 credit hour load. Assuming you reasonably pace the activities, you can plan on an hour for class attendance and another hour or two for an activity each week.

Grading

There will be no exams and nothing during finals week. There will be activities that involve attendance at events outside the regular class time. In order to pass, students must accumulate sufficient points in three different categories:

1. *Attendance:* Attendance is worth 1 point for each session – a minimum of 12 points must be earned.
2. *Foundation:* Foundation Activities are worth 1 point each – At least 6 points must be earned.
3. *Broadening:* Broadening Activities are worth 1 point each – At least 6 points must be earned.

Moreover, a minimum total of 27 points overall must be earned. (Doing the minimum of each of the categories earns only 24 of the required 27 points!) Some activities are graded on a scale of 1-100. A grade of at least 75 must be attained in order to earn the point for such an activity.

Expectations are for students to maintain high integrity and to present

themselves in a professional manner. Dishonesty is not tolerated (see Academic Integrity section in this syllabus). In the classroom, students will be attentive and courteous to the many speakers and panelists who will be presenting. Failure will result in a request to leave the session and loss of that attendance point.

For activities that involve handing in reports, submission will be electronic with varying deadlines. Some will have deadlines tied to particular panel sessions or events. Others will be floating, due anytime before the end of the course. However, because of the large class size and limited TA grading capacity, no more than one floating submission per student can be accepted per week during the last half of the course (following Fall Break).

Schedule

Some sessions will be scheduled around availability of guest speakers and timing of special events such as the Fall Career Fair, the local ACM Programming Contest, and Priority Registration for spring semester. These may require modifications to the preliminary schedule.

Important Dates

- *First Sessions:* Wednesday and Thursday August 26 and 27
- *Engineering Involvement Fair:* Tuesday, September 8, 4:30 – 7:00 pm, Centennial Room in the Student Union. Also see <http://events.unl.edu/engineering/2015/09/08/101670/>
- See also <http://engineering.unl.edu/current-students/student-involvement/> and <http://cas.unl.edu/get-involved> for opportunities in Engineering College and Arts & Sciences College respectively.
- *Education Abroad Fair:* Tuesday September 22, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm, Nebraska Union; also see <http://educationabroad.unl.edu>
- *Engineering Study Abroad Fair:* Wednesday, September 23, 3:30 – 5:00 pm, Othmer Hall; also see <http://engineering.unl.edu/current-students/education-abroad-lincoln/>
- *Fall Career Fair:* Thursday, October 1, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm at the Pinnacle Bank Arena. Also see <http://www.unl.edu/careers/career-services-events-calendar>
- *Norfolk Industry Day:* Friday, October 9, all day, see <http://engineering.unl.edu/fall-industry-tour-student-expectations/>

- *Priority Registration for Spring:* Monday October 26 – Tuesday November 10, freshmen will have Friday November 6 – Tuesday November 10.

Academic Integrity Policy

Everyone in the Department is expected to understand and abide by our policy. This will be a topic of discussion very early in the course. See http://cse.unl.edu/ugrad/resources/academic_integrity.php for the document.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY

Class Sessions (*preliminary and not necessarily in order – attend at least 12*)

1. *Introductions* – Syllabus and Expectations, Faculty & Pizza following
2. *We Did It, You Can Too!* – Student Panel to discuss first year experiences: work load, study skills, finding resources, group work, integrity, informal education opportunities
3. *Student Organizations* – Panel of organization leaders discuss activities, opportunities for and benefits of involvement
4. *Study Abroad* – Panel to discuss opportunities for study abroad
5. *Careers* – Career Services representative to discuss preparing for the Fall Career Fair
6. *Employment* – Employer Panel to discuss preparation for internships and eventual employment
7. *Internships* – Student Panel to share experiences in finding internships; sharing of final reports for CSCE 491 *Internship for Credit*

8. *Support Services* – Panel discussing on-campus assistance for counseling, disabilities, appeals, and other resources
9. *Professional Development* – Why you are here, Where you are going, Integrity, Character
10. *Diversity* – Panel to discuss the department’s priority and what students can do to prepare for a diverse workplace
11. *Tours of Schorr* – Research Facilities tours week (no class)
12. *Undergraduate Research* – Student Panel to discuss involvement in UCARE, working in our research labs, and relevance to graduate studies
13. *Opportunities* – Panel of recent graduates to discuss how their choices led them to where they are today
14. *Involvement* – Panel to discuss becoming an Undergraduate TA (UTA), independent learning, ACM Programming Contest, Entrepreneurship, faculty committees, and more
15. *Debriefings and Course Assessment* – Discussion, Pizza

Foundation Activities (do at least 6)

1. *Write an essay: “What the Department’s Academic Integrity Policy Means to Me”*. The policy is fairly lengthy in order to cover many complexities, nuances, and rationales. Throughout your time here, it will be assumed that you understand the policy.
2. Learn a computing technology outside the regular classroom – *Report on what and how you learned*. This could be picking up SQL using MySQL, JavaScript, LaTeX text formatting, using a game engine, programming Arduinos, etc. Your report will likely include an example or a URL to what you have done. Being able to learn things on your own and having the drive to do it is invaluable for obtaining good jobs.
3. Visit with at least 3 employers at the Fall Career Fair – *Report on your findings*. Starting now while you are freshmen is highly advised. Do it BEFORE you have to.
4. Join tours of three research labs in the department (*attendance taken*). Discover some of the really neat research you can get involved in. Report on it.
5. *Prepare a weekly work schedule* and follow it. Some student benefit greatly by having a schedule lain out. Admittedly, some do fine

- without. If the latter describes you, check with the instructor for possible alternatives.
6. *Develop a plan of studies to complete your college education.* Having some idea of what you will be doing can help guide you with priorities and scheduling. Think through possible minors, internships, study abroad, availability of technical electives. Report on it.
 7. *Prepare a resume.* Whether or not you intend to use it right away, now is the time to get started.
 8. *Prepare a statement of purpose.* Why are you here? What have you done? Where do you hope to go? What do you really want to accomplish in life?
 9. Visit with an advisor to plan for spring semester (*Sign in when you come in for priority registration advising*). Even if you think you know exactly what is coming up for you, do check in – there may be opportunities you have not thought of!
 10. *Attend the Norfolk Fall Industry Tour.* (attendance is recorded). See <http://engineering.unl.edu/fall-industry-tour/> for details and registration. Report on it.

Broadening Activities (do at least 6)

1. Get involved in a student organization or program and/or go to the Student Involvement Fair (Tuesday Sept 8). *Report on it.*
2. Collaborate with a team of students on a non-class related, computing project – *Document it.*
3. Attend an international students event – *Report on it.*
4. Complete a computing course project that goes beyond the minimum requirements for an A – *Submit documentation.*
5. Attend a Lied or similar professional fine arts event – *Report on it.*
6. Take a graded exam/homework to the instructor and point out where you feel you have been awarded too much credit – *Document it. (How did it feel? What was the reaction?)*
7. Attend a sports event for a sport that is new to you – *Report on it.*
8. *Write an essay: “How Can I Use Computing to Improve My World”.*
9. Practice and compete in the local ACM Programming Contest – *attendance taken.*

10. Team up for a project with someone who differs from you significantly in ethnic/national origin/primary language/religion – *Report on it.*
11. Do a volunteer project (ideally computer-related) to benefit some philanthropic cause – *Report on it.*

Submission of Activities Reports

Most reports/essays/documentations will be a couple pages in length. Begin each with your name and identify the activity (such as “Broadening Activity #7: Attended a Curling Match”). No special formatting or format is required – Word or PDF are fine. In some cases it may be more interesting to document your activity or present your essay by producing a YouTube video. In your written submission to the electronic handin, simply provide brief introduction, a link to your video, and include your responses to the questions below. At the end of each report answer the following four questions:

1. What do you see is the intended purpose of the activity?
2. Did you experience this purpose while doing the activity? Explain.
3. Do you see this as a valid and significant purpose? Explain.
4. What modifications would you suggest (if any) for next year’s class?

Other Items:

- The CSE Department has an anonymous contact form that you may use to voice your concerns about any problems in the course or department if you do not wish to be identified. See <http://cse.unl.edu/contact-form>.
- It is CSE Department policy that all students in CSE courses are expected to regularly check their email so they do not miss important announcements.
- TA office hours are in the Student Resource Center (SRC) which is at Avery 13A. See <http://cse.unl.edu/src>
- This syllabus may be updated and expanded as the semester progresses.