CMSC 389 Syllabus TL;DR

Spring 2026
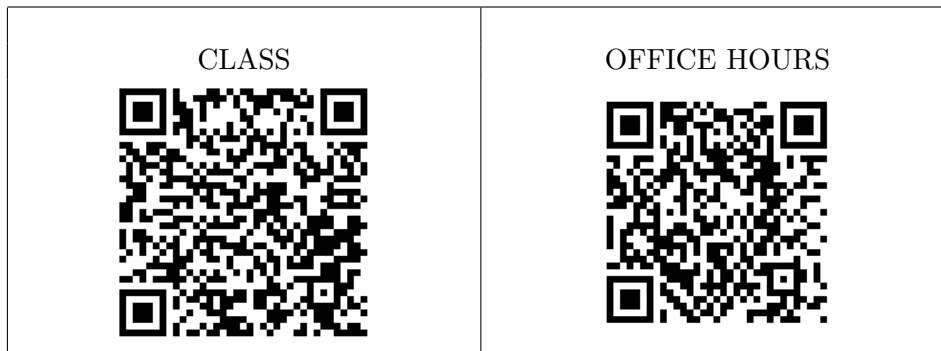
Meets:	MW 4pm, Rotunda 356
Website:	`https://cs.longwood.edu/courses/cmsc389/`
100% office hours:	Mondays 3–4pm; Tuesdays 1–2pm;
	Wednesdays 10–11am; Thursdays 11am–noon

Bookmark the course website listed above; assignments will be posted there. Also, connect to the course Slack channel for announcements and discussions related to the course.

See the full syllabus at the website listed above.

Zoom attendance quick links

Links can also be found on the Canvas page for the course.

CLASS   OFFICE HOURS

Assignment breakdown

Projects	50%	(10 each, plus 10 bonus)
Collected homework	15%	
Exams	30%	(15 each)
Engagement	5%	

Projects. The bulk of the work and of the grade in this course. Each of you must implement each project yourself, but they are collaborative (you can talk to other people about them).

Each will have checkpoints that I'll describe in detail elsewhere, a final code handin, and a followup. The prep work and the final versions are due at 4pm on their respective due dates unless I say otherwise; the design work is due at the start of class.

Collected homework. Homeworks run in two rounds: first, I give feedback (but no grade); on a revision, I assign a grade (but no further feedback). Each problem gets 10, 7, 4, or 0 points. Homeworks are group work: you can work with anyone in the class, or on your own if you prefer, and hand in one copy for the group.

All homeworks are due at the beginning of class on the due date.

Exams. Both exams will be take-home, and non-collaborative: **you are not permitted to discuss the exam with *anyone at all* other than me.**

Engagement. Participate. Ask questions. Be ready to answer questions about the reading. I'll quiz sometimes.

Grading scale

I tend to grade hard on individual assignments, but compensate for this in the final grades. The grading scale will be approximately as follows:

A$-$	[85, 90)	A	[90, 95)	A$+$	[95, 100]
B$-$	[70, 75)	B	[75, 80)	B$+$	[80, 85)
C$-$	[55, 60)	C	[60, 65)	C$+$	[65, 70)
D$-$	[40, 45)	D	[45, 50)	D$+$	[50, 55)

While there will be no "curve" in the statistical sense, I may slightly adjust the scale at the end of the term if it turns out some of the assignments were too difficult. Final grades of A+ are recorded as an A in the grading system. Final grades below the minimum for D$-$ are recorded as an F.

Note that *individual* grades recorded in Canvas should be accurate (and you should let me know if there's a data entry error!), but *averages* as computed by Canvas sometimes are not, if the averaging is complex or (especially) if an individual student has a special case scenario. The reference gradebook is my own spreadsheet, and while I will try to make Canvas reflect it (including averages) as well as I can, Canvas can't always handle it.