

CAAM 420 Fall 2011 Policies

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Homework will account for 100% of the course grade. It will be assigned frequently (as often as every class period), with due dates ranging from the next class period to a week later. You should turn in your homework using the CAAM 420 homework turn-in procedure to be described later - **no other method will be accepted**, except in extreme circumstances and will prior approval of the instructor.

No late homework will be accepted. Of course occasionally you may not be able to complete a homework assignment on time. However missing a single homework should not affect your grade in any serious way (or what you learn from the course), because I will discount the lowest grade (of the unpledged assignments) in computing your final grade for the course.

Most of the homeworks will be unpledged - that is, you are encouraged to work together with your fellow students in completing these assignments. It is probably a good idea to form groups or teams that work together throughout the semester, but that is up to you. I don't care whether you actually get together or not, as you can work by email almost as well. These unpledged homeworks will account for 55% of your grade.

If you do work together in groups, it is still necessary for everyone to turn their own version of the homework.

The emphasis on collaboration is very deliberate: writing software can be an enormously time-consuming process, and the quickest way to get yourself out of trouble is to show your code (that doesn't work) to someone else. You will learn a lot from your fellow students, possibly more than you learn from the instructor.

In order to facilitate evaluation, three of the homeworks will be pledged, ie. to be done individually, without assistance, and turned with the standard Rice honor pledge written as part of the text. These three homeworks will account for 45% of your grade; each will correspond to and require mastery of one of the three main sections of the course, and may involve a more elaborate project.