CS 100: Introduction to the Profession, Syllabus

1 Course Overview
An introduction to computer science as an academic pursuit and profession. Presents a broad survey of CS related topics and research areas, emphasizing problem-solving processes and their interdisciplinary nature.

2 Course Objectives
• Develop a basic understanding of major current and historical areas of interest in computer science.
• Explore ideas and technologies from modern-day applied CS.
• Understand the relationship of CS to other fields — notably, to the natural and social sciences, engineering, mathematics, the arts, and business/entrepreneurship.
• Consider and debate ethical and social issues in applied CS.
• Recognize resources available to help prepare for a career in CS.

3 Course breakdown
• 10%: Attendance
• 10%: Status Updates
• 25%: Class Debates
• 35%: Assignments
• 20%: Research Paper
3.1 Attendance

Class attendance is mandatory. A sign-in sheet will be passed around at the beginning of each class (if you’re late, it’s your responsibility to make sure you sign it before leaving).

Two absences are automatically excused — after that, each absence will reduce the attendance score by 10%.

3.2 Status Updates

Each student is to send an e-mail to saelee@iit.edu with the subject “CS 100 Status” by 11:59PM every Friday with the following:

1. A summary and opinion on some CS-related current event (for inspiration, see Reddit / Techmeme / Hacker News).
2. Any class-related concerns (CS 100 or any other class you’re taking!)

3.3 Class Debates

Every other week, a CS-related topic will be announced to serve as the focus of a short debate on the following week. Opposing views will be provided, and every student is to come to class prepared to argue either side. Debaters will be announced at the beginning of debate day (at least 5 students per side), and the rest of the class will observe and vote on the winning side.

3.4 Assignments

Individual assignments (coded, written, etc.) will be periodically announced in class, together with submission details.

3.5 Research Paper

A final paper, written as a formal survey of a topic selected from a curated list, and based on one or more published research papers, will be completed by each student. Each paper will be read and assessed by the student’s peers using a set of fixed criteria.