CS100: 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
30%: Lecture surveys
10%: Debate
20%: Team assignment
30%: Lab assignments
Assignment grades will be updated in Blackboard periodically.

3.1 Attendance
Attendance is mandatory for both lecture and lab. If you are not on campus or in Chicago area, synchronous online attendance is required. Because of lecture classroom size limitations, you will only attend lecture in-person every other week, and synchronously online alternating weeks. Students with last name starting with letters A through L attend lecture in person on odd numbered weeks. Students with last name starting with letters M through Z attend lecture in person on even numbered weeks. Two absences are automatically excused — after that, each absence will reduce the attendance score by 10%.

3.2 Lecture surveys
Surveys/Quizzes will be administered via online forms at the end of each lecture. You must be attending, in-person or online, to complete and submit them. Deadline for the survey/quiz is when lecture ends.

3.3 Debates
Two debates, centered on current digital society topics, concentrating this term on racial & social justice issues, will be held during five lectures. Two teams of six will be told the topic and side (supporting and opposing) one week in advance, so they can prepare. All debates will be done online, even if you are in-person in lecture that week. Each student will be assigned to a debate team once over the course of the semester. Non-debaters will complete surveys during the debates.
3.4 Team assignment
In teams of 4 from your lab room, design and produce a Kurzgesagt (in a nutshell) style video on a current computing or technology topic and addressing both the “how it works” and the effects on society. Six weeks in lab will be dedicated to your Kurzgesagt. Week 4 - idea generation, Week 6 – research, Week 8 & 10 – storyboard, Week 12 & 14 – creation

3.5 Lab assignments
A new lab assignment (coded, written, etc.) will be announced most weeks, and TAs will be on hand to facilitate work during the lab session. Submission mechanisms will vary. Lab scores range from 0 (no submission) to 4 (best), and all labs are weighted equally.