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

- 20%: Lecture surveys

- 30%: Debates

- 10%: Extra-curricular assignment

- 30%: Lab assignments

3.1 Attendance

Class attendance is mandatory. We will be using a card scanner to take attendance, so **be sure to bring your campus ID to class**!

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

3.2 Lecture surveys

Surveys/Quizzes will be periodically administered via online forms at the end of lecture. You must be present to complete and submit them.

3.3 Debates

Debates centered on topics presented during lecture will be held periodically during lab sessions. Resolutions will be provided in advance, and every student is to arrive prepared to debate both supporting and opposing sides. Debaters will be announced at the beginning of the lab session (with 3 students per team). Each student will debate twice over the course of the semester. Non-debaters will vote on the winners.

3.4 Extra-curricular assignment

Every student must choose one of four options (Chihacknight. Hackathon, Chicago Humanities Fest, The Chicago Colloquium on Digital Humanities and Computer Science), and submit a writeup (500-750 words) about their experience and submit in blackboard. The best submissions each week will be submitted to Tech News for publication.

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, but TAs will post scores for all assignments on the Blackboard gradebook. Lab scores range from 0 (worst) to 4 (best), and all labs are weighted equally.