

Peer-Led Seminar in Tech

CS 286

Fall 2022

F 11:00am - 12:45pm 08/23/22 - 12/02/22 HR 411

Instructor Information

Matthew Malensek
mmalensek@usfca.edu

Office Hours

Remote: M, W 10:00am – 11:00am via Zoom

In Person: T, Th 1:30pm – 2:30pm □ F 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Office Location: HR 407B

Sophie Engle
sjengle@cs.usfca.edu

Office Hours

Tuesday, Friday 3:15 - 4:15 PT

Office Location: HR 412B

Alark Joshi
apjoshi@usfca.edu

Office Hours

Tuesday, Thursday 1-2pm

Office Location: HR 415

Course Description

Topics not covered by other CS curricular offerings. Students may register for this class in more than one semester. Consent of instructor required. Offered intermittently.

In this course, students take the lead on organizing and running activities that strengthens the tech community within the classroom, as well as activities that engage with the tech community outside the classroom.

Example activities include:

- inviting guest speakers from the tech community;
- interviewing students, alumni/industry professionals, or faculty from tech-related programs on campus;
- designing and running peer-run workshops;
- hosting workshops from other organizations in class;
- organizing peer tutoring, advising, or study sessions;
- organizing student presentations or discussions/panels on emerging topics in tech;
- preparing and disseminating useful tech-related materials to other students within the department;
- designing and completing peer assessment associated with weekly activities.

The focus of these activities may range from how to be a successful student in tech-related majors, possible future career paths in tech, challenges faced by the tech community, existing and emerging trends in tech, or community building.

Course Learning Outcomes

In this course, students will:

- Strengthen their sense of community within the classroom and department
- Engage with technical communities on and off campus
- Improve effective communication and organization as part of a team
- Develop leadership and facilitation skills

Assignments

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory; students may miss no more than 2 classes. Additional absences must be pre-approved by the instructor. Students that fail to meet the attendance requirements may receive an F letter grade regardless of their other scores.

Participation

Students must complete weekly assignments related to current or upcoming in-class activities outside of class. These assignments are graded pass/fail.

Peer-Led Activities

Students must organize and lead two 45 minute in-class activities that either strengthens the tech community within the classroom, or engages with the tech community outside the classroom. One of these activities must be organized independently; the other activity may be organized in groups of 2 to 4 students.

Students must propose the activities to the instructor for approval, and once approved, schedule the activities, communicate the activities to their peers, create and disseminate related participation assignments to their peers, collect feedback on the activity, and write about their experience.

Grading Breakdown and Grading Policies

To earn a passing letter grade, students must first meet the attendance requirements for this class. Students failing to meet this requirement will receive an F letter grade.

For students meeting the attendance requirements, the letter grade will be determined by a mix of pass/fail assignments in the following categories:

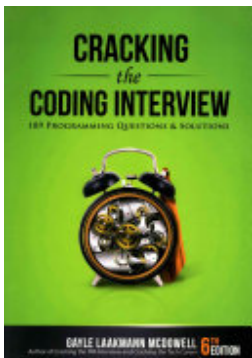
- 25% weekly participation assignments
- 50% leading at least two 45 minute peer-led activities
- 25% an end of semester reflection activity and report

This course will use the following grading scale:

Min %	Letter	GPA
97%	A+	4.0

94%	A	4.0
90%	A-	3.7
87%	B+	3.3
84%	B	3.0
80%	B-	2.7
77%	C+	2.3
74%	C	2.0
70%	C-	1.7
67%	D+	1.3
64%	D	1.0
60%	D-	0.7
0%	F	0.0

Texts and Supplies



Cracking the Coding Interview

ISBN: 9780984782857

Authors: Gayle Laakmann McDowell

Publisher: Careercup

Publication Date: 2015-01-01

Required or recommended?: Recommended

Program Learning Outcomes

This course partially prepares students for the "Project" program learning outcome for the CS major. See the [catalog page](#) for details.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory; students may miss no more than 2 classes. Additional absences must be pre-approved by the instructor. Students that fail to meet the attendance requirements may receive an F letter grade regardless of their other scores.

University Policies

Credit-hour Policy

One unit of credit in lecture, seminar, and discussion work approximates one hour of direct faculty instruction (or 50 minutes plus a break) and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work per week through one 15-week semester. For further details, see USF's [Credit Hour Policy](#).

Students with Disabilities

The University of San Francisco is committed to the full participation of all students. Student Disability Services (SDS) recognizes disability as a valued aspect of diversity and works to facilitate equal access and an inclusive environment for students with disabilities. The University offers many services to its students with disabilities. [Student Disability Services \(SDS\)](#) arranges these accommodations on an individual basis for each eligible student during the intake/eligibility process. You can initiate the [intake and eligibility](#) process through the office, or email or call SDS at sds@usfca.edu or (415) 422-2613. (All communication with SDS is private and confidential.) If you are determined eligible for accommodations, please request that your accommodation letter be sent to me as soon as possible; students are encouraged to contact SDS at the beginning of the semester, as accommodations are not retroactive. Once I have been notified by SDS of your accommodations we can discuss your accommodations and ensure your access to this class or clinical setting. For more information please visit the SDS [website](#).

Behavioral Expectations

All students are expected to behave in accordance with the Student Conduct Code and other University policies (see the USF [Fogcutter](#)). Students whose behavior is disruptive or who fail to comply with the instructor may be dismissed from the class for the remainder of the class period and may need to meet with the instructor or Dean prior to returning to the next class period. If necessary, referrals may also be made to the [Student Conduct process](#) for violations of the [Student Conduct Code](#).

Academic Integrity

As a Jesuit institution committed to *cura personalis*—the care and education of the whole person—USF has an obligation to embody and foster the values of honesty and integrity. All members of the

USF academic community are responsible for maintaining the standards of honesty and integrity.

The [honor code](#) applies to all students (undergraduate and graduate) in the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Education, the School of Management, and the School of Nursing and Health Professions. Faculty and students in the School of Law should review their own honor code for policies and procedures. Students enrolled in distance learning (online courses) are subject to these policies as well as supplemental policies set forth by their program.

- Cheating

Cheating is the use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information, and study aids, as well as unauthorized collaboration on examinations and other academic exercises. It is the responsibility of students to consult with their professors concerning what constitutes permissible collaboration. Cheating or helping others cheat is academic fraud.

- Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the act of presenting, as one's own, the ideas or writings of another; plagiarism, in any of its forms, violates academic integrity. While different academic disciplines have different norms of attribution, all strive to recognize and value individuals' contributions to the larger body of knowledge. It is the responsibility of students to consult with their professors in order to understand the norms of attribution in each discipline and area of study.

- False Citations

False citation is attribution to an incorrect or fabricated source; false citation is academic fraud. False citation seriously undermines the integrity of the academic enterprise.

- Submitting the Same Work for Multiple Assignments

Students may not submit work (in identical or similar form) for multiple assignments without the prior, explicit approval of all faculty to whom the work will be submitted. This includes work first produced at USF or at another institution attended by the student.

- Submitting False Data

False data is information that has been fabricated, altered, or contrived in such a way as to be misleading; the submission of false data is academic fraud.

- Falsifying Academic Documentation

Forging or altering academic documentation (including transcripts, signatures, letters of recommendation, certificates of enrollment or standing, registration forms, and medical certifications) concerning oneself or others is academic fraud.

- Abuse of Library Privileges

Depriving others of equal access to library materials constitutes a violation of academic integrity. This includes sequestering library materials for the use of an individual or group, refusal to respond to recall notices, and the removal or attempt to remove library materials from any university library without authorization.

- Abuse of Shared Electronic Media

Depriving others of equal access to shared electronic media used for academic purposes constitutes a violation of academic integrity. This includes actions that result in the damage or sabotage of campus computer systems.

Counseling and Psychological Services

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) is a great source of support for issues of sadness, anxiety, loneliness, college adjustment, relationship struggles, and others not requiring medical intervention. CAPS offers online workshop series open to all students; consultations and referrals; and extensive [website resources](#). In addition, CAPS All Hours line can be contacted by calling (855) 531-0761 or students can use the peer-led Crisis Textline by texting HOME to 741741. CAPS also offers remote individual and group teletherapy to students residing within California. (State regulations prevent provision of therapy across state lines.) The student may choose to talk either by video or telephone and can engage in Single Session Therapy (SST), brief ongoing therapy, or group therapy. There are no fees for services. Please call (415) 422-6352 to make an appointment. Visit the CAPs [website](#) for more details. Students seeking off campus mental health services can also receive information and support from Case Management (part of the Office of the Dean of Students); visit the Dean of Students' [website](#) for further information.

Title IX

The Title IX Office seeks to stop, remedy, and prevent occurrences of sex and gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual violence. The University has a [Policy on Nondiscrimination based on Sex and Gender, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct](#). If you have experienced any of these behaviors, we encourage you to report the incident. If you report these behaviors to any staff or faculty member, they must notify the USF Title IX Coordinator.

Students who wish to report any sexual misconduct should use the [online mandatory reporting](#) form, or contact the Title IX Office directly. Other reporting options are available by visiting the Title IX website: <https://myusf.usfca.edu/title-ix/reporting>. The Title IX Office is located in Lone Mountain Room 145.

As an employee at USF, and your Professor, I am a mandatory reporter, meaning I have to share any instances of sexual harassment or sexual violence shared with me or that become known to me. I will have to share this information, including names and any details known, to the Title IX

Office to connect you with resources. If you would like more information about the resources available, you can ask me at any time this semester. You do not need to tell me why you are asking to get help for a friend, another student, or yourself.

Confidential Resources for Reporting Sexual Misconduct

- Students may speak to someone confidentially which will not generate a report to the Title IX Office by contacting Counseling and Psychological Services at (415) 422-6352 during M-F 9-4pm, or speaking to a clergy member in University Ministry at (415) 422-4463.
- If you need to speak to a mental health clinician immediately, please **call the CAPS 24/7 All Hours Line at 855-531-0761** (available daily, including weekends and holidays, and accepts international calls), Public Safety (415-422-2911), 911, the Suicide Hotline (dial 988), or go to your nearest emergency room
- For off-campus resources, and local Bay Area organizations: <https://myusf.usfca.edu/title-ix/resources>

Learning, Writing, and Speaking Centers

The University of San Francisco offers academic assistance to all students through The Learning Center, The Writing Center, and The Speaking Center. Services are available at no additional cost to USF students and include subject-specific tutoring, writing assistance, and communications-related support. The Learning Center also provides opportunities for academic skill development, through one-on-one academic skills coaching, group workshops, and online resources. The Learning, Writing, and Speaking Centers are located on the Lower Level of Gleeson Library. Please contact them at (415) 422-6713 for further assistance or visit the LWSC [website](#) to make an appointment.

Communication

All course communications, like all other USF communications, will be sent to your USF official email address. You are therefore strongly encouraged to monitor that email account.

Gleeson Library

Looking for help with a research paper or project? Set up a consultation with a Librarian or get 24/7 research help [online](#).

Credit Hour Breakdown

This seminar is worth 2 credit hours, which requires a minimum of 90 hours of student work over a 15-week semester. This time will work out as follows:

- 30 hours on in-class attendance and participation (approximately 2 hours weekly)
- 35 hours on weekly out-of-class work (approximately 2 hours weekly)
- 20 hours on organizing and leading at least one peer-led activity
- 5 hours participating in other on-campus activities sponsored by the department or the university

Additional Communication Details

In addition to mail to your USF official email account, course announcements and communication will use a course-specific Slack channel.

Additional USF Resources

USF Food Pantry

The USF Food Pantry is an intermediate, short-term solution for any registered USF student to receive food and toiletry resources. Students are invited to stop by the pantry located on the first floor of Gleeson Library in the Atrium, and take the items that they need. Items are available on a first-come, first-serve basis until our supply is depleted. You will be asked to check-in via QR code before entering the pantry. For more information and the current schedule, visit the [USF food pantry website](#). If you have further questions, please contact the Pantry Coordinator at usfpantry@usfca.edu or 415-422-4099 (during business hours Monday thru Friday from 9:00am - 5:00pm). You can find out about additional food security resources through the [USF food insecurity resource page](#) and the [CalFresh resources site](#).