Week 1 - Welcome to 389E!

1 Welcome!

Welcome to CMSC389E! Since opportunities for us, your instructors, to communicate with you, our amazing students, are few and far between this semester, our goal is to provide information about this course to you in the best way possible.

That being said, we've worked out a system that should be clear, digestible, and very flexible given the circumstances. You can send any questions, comments or concerns directly to us.

2 What is This Handout?

This is the **week 1 instructional handout**. It, in conjunction with your ELMS modules (and the course website, which will be mirroring the ELMS modules) will provide you with all the information and resources you need to succeed in this class.

You are expected to read the instructional handout provided for every week, and make yourself aware of news bulletins, tasks you must complete (for a grade!) on ELMS, projects, and exams when applicable. In short, as long as you do everything specified on this document, which will be released every week, you will have a very successful semester in 389E.

That being said, please ensure that you review every section in this document and complete the corresponding assignments on ELMS.

3 Sign up for Discord

Lecture for this class, along with **Q & A** (think Piazza) will be hosted on the popular voice chat & streaming service, Discord. You will need to make an account in order to login to the service. Once you have an account, use the provided link to join our class server for Fall 2020. `https://discord.gg/X8G3ATT`

Due to our small class size, you simply need to join the dedicated 'lecture' voice channel at 11AM on Friday, and Discord will give you the option to watch an instructor's stream.

Feel free to ask questions in the dedicated text channel as well- our small class size allows us to get to all of your questions in a fairly efficient manner. If your question is private, feel free to message one of the course instructors privately via Discord. Another option is to send an email.

Although the nature of the Discord platform is lighthearted, kindly refrain from sending or saying unsavory things or being disrespectful to your fellow students. Consider this Discord server to be an academic space. We will take appropriate disciplinary action should the server be abused. **Important: The State of Maryland legally requires us (the instructors) to inform you (the students who will be within the discord channel at designated time of lecture unless otherwise specified) that you will be recorded.** If you would not like to be recorded, we will provide avenues through which you may ask text-based questions during lecture and simply listen in.

4 Buy Minecraft

Please purchase the **Java Edition** of Minecraft from the official Mojang website. **Do not buy the bedrock version**. This will allow you to install and use the CMSC389E mod, which provides our valuable wiring functionality

and submit server integration.

If you are confused as to which version you are buying, you are encouraged to confirm with an instructor via Discord, or ask during the first lecture.

5   Check out the Online Textbook!

One of the instructors is in the process of developing an online textbook, designed to provide stronger background for those who wish to have a more concrete record of what is covered in lecture. You will find relevant links under the "Reading and Resources" column on the course website's homepage, and on ELMS.

You are encouraged to take a look at the recommended reading for this week (Section 1, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3) especially if you need to refamiliarize yourself with Minecraft.

The book is currently a work in progress, please feel free to send feedback to `apraveen@cs.umd.edu`.

6   Familiarize yourself with the course website

All the information you'll need for each week will be stored on the course website. For example, in week 1, you can find the instructional handout (this handout), lecture slides and video recording, first project, and recommended reading and resources, all on the homepage. Navigate around the website and make sure that you understand where to keep track of weekly tasks, among other things.

7   Familiarize yourself with ELMS

Ensure that your data is properly stored in ELMS, and navigate around the course page and see what you can find. At the time of writing, the department is still working to make our ELMS page published. As soon as it comes up, feel free to take a look around. **The ELMS page and the course website will both have the same content. It is your choice to use one or another to get information about what's going on in the course, but we must remind you that all assignments must be handed in via ELMS (excluding projects)**.

8   Install Minecraft and the CMSC389E Mod

Prior to completing the project, you will need to install Minecraft and our proprietary circuitry mod. You will find instructions under the 'Setup and Installation' link in the 'Reading and Resources' column for Week 1.

Our recommendation is that you attempt this as soon as possible, so that we, your instructors, can help you resolve any issues that you may run into.

9   Project 0 - DUE 9/14

Project 1 can be found on ELMS and the course website. (Generally, ELMS and the course website will be mirroring each other, and are both equally good ways to get class resources)

This project is really setup work to make sure that you've got the right version of Minecraft, have installed the mod properly, can run a few commands, etc. The timeframe is exactly the same as your forthcoming projects will be.

Generally, projects will be released **right after class** on Friday, then they will be due not the coming Monday, but the Monday after that. We provide this fairly sizable timeframe to allow students to take their time working on these projects. You can expect all future project due dates to be structured in this exact same manner, save for the final project.

For example: our first class, where Project 0 will be assigned, is going to be September 4th. As such, Project 0 is due on the 14th.