

Syllabus – CS 4321 – Summer 2026

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1 Course Information

Course: CS 4321 – Software Engineering I, Section A, 3 hrs. credit, Department of Computer Science, College of Arts & Sciences, Valdosta State University

Prerequisites: CS 3410 with a C or better.

Catalog Description: Concepts and techniques used in all aspects of the software life-cycle relevant to the production of large object-oriented software systems. Students will work in teams on a project.

Topics: Lifecycle models, requirements, analysis, design, architecture, testing, UML, design patterns, management issues

Learning Outcomes: Students who have successfully completed this course will be able to:

1. Work in a team to develop and present a software system, producing appropriate documentation and following a lifecycle model.
2. Discuss techniques for gathering and analyzing users' requirements.
3. Construct static and dynamic models of software using UML.
4. Develop an efficient and effective test plan from software requirements.
5. Discuss issues related to the management of the software development process.

2 Instructor Information

Instructor Dr. Dave Gibson, 1128 Nevins, 229.333.7151 (office), 229.253.4410 (Dept. office)

Office Hours I am available via:

- VSU email – If you want to reach me, please use VSU email. We will use BlazeView only for HW drop boxes. I'll check email on weekdays, around 10am and 3pm. I'll usually check email on the weekends.
- Teams – Send an email proposing a date and time window.
- Telephone or in person when I am in town.

Email dgibson@valdosta.edu, All email addressed to me should:

- Be from a VSU account
- Have a subject that begins with: CS 4321 (e.g. CS 4321-HW 1 question)
- Be signed with your full name in the body of the message (e.g. Dave Gibson)
- Do NOT use Blazeview for communication with me. Blazeview is only used for turning in assignments.

3 Class Information

Class: Online, June 9 – July 30, online

Course Website: The course website is located at: <https://cs.valdosta.edu/~dgibson/courses/cs4321su26/index.shtml> which displays the course Schedule. The Schedule provides a list of exactly what you should do, assignments, and due dates. It is your responsibility to check the Schedule regularly.

Textbook: There is no text for the course.

Course Structure: The course is broken down as follows:

Week	Dates	Activity
1	June 9-14	Course Topics & Homework Project: Sprint 0 – User Stories
2	June 15-21	
3	June 22-28	
4	June 29-July 5	Project: Sprint 1 – Core Development
5	July 6-12	
6	July 13-19	Project: Sprint 2 – Additional Features
7	July 20-26	
8	July 27-30	

4 Assessment

Grade Components:

All assessments are shown below including their weights, and due dates, listed in the order they are assigned. Late homework is penalized 20% per day late.

Homework	Weight	Due
HW Project Team	0%	June 14, 11:59pm
HW P1L1	2%	June 14, 11:59pm
HW P1L2	2%	June 14, 11:59pm
HW VCS	10%	June 21, 11:59pm
HW P2L1	2%	June 21, 11:59pm
HW P2L2	2%	June 21, 11:59pm
HW P4L4	2%	June 21, 11:59pm
Project: Sprint 0	10%	June 25, 11:59pm
HW P4L1	2%	June 28, 11:59pm
HW P4L2	2%	June 28, 11:59pm
HW Unit Testing	7%	June 28, 11:59pm
HW P3L1	2%	June 28, 11:59pm
HW P4L5	2%	June 28, 11:59pm
Project: Sprint 1	25%	July 12, 11:59pm
Project: Sprint 2	30%	July 30, 11:59pm
Total	100%	

Project – The project is comprised of 3 sprints for a total of 65% of your final grade. You will work in teams to write user stories and implement them. All details are provided on the Schedule including deliverables.

Final Course Average:

Your course average is computed from the weights above using a 100-point scale. Final grades are assigned according to where your course average (rounded) falls on the following scale: 90-100=A, 80-89=B, 70-79=C, 60-69=D, 59 or below=F.

5 Tips for Success

1. **Don't Overextend Yourself** – This class will take a lot of time. Don't take too many classes this summer and/or work too much at a job. There is no way to recover if you get behind as the semester is only 8 weeks. I have taught this course for 25+ years and the only time someone doesn't pass is in the Summer. It doesn't happen all that often, but it does occur – always from overextension. Also, there are significantly more C grades in Summer.
2. **Meet Regularly** – Meet regularly for your project. You should meet as a group at least every other day, or more if you need it. A meeting should have an agenda, someone to take notes on decisions you reach and task assignments. At the meeting, begin by asking each person to provide a short update on their task(s) and any obstacles they are facing. Don't solve the obstacles in the meeting, itself, generally – do that outside, possibly with help from a team member. You have to work together to create a working piece of software that satisfies the requirements.

6 Additional Information

Title IX Statement: Valdosta State University (VSU) upholds all applicable laws and policies regarding discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment and pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, religion, age, veteran status, political affiliation, or disability. The University prohibits specific forms of behavior that violate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities that receive federal funding. VSU considers sex discrimination in any form to be a serious offense. Title IX refers to all forms of sex discrimination committed against others, including but not limited to: sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence by other employees, students or third parties and gender inequity or unfair treatment based on an individual's sex/gender. The designated Title IX Coordinator for VSU is Mr. Darius Thomas. To view the full policy or to report an incident visit: <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/title-ix/>.

Accommodations Statement: Students with disabilities who are experiencing barriers in this course may contact the Access Office (<https://www.valdosta.edu/student/disability/>) for assistance in determining and implementing reasonable accommodations. The Access Office is located in University Center Room 4136 Entrance 5. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V), 229-375-5871. For more information, please visit VSU's Access Office or email: access@valdosta.edu. To request reasonable accommodations for pregnancy and childbirth, contact Christina Kidd, Student Conduct Coordinator at chkidd@valdosta.edu. Please note, you will be required to provide documentation from an appropriately licensed medical professional indicating the requested accommodations are medically necessary.

7 Academic Honesty

You are expected to work individually for all homework's except one, which will be indicated on the assignment. The code for your project must be completed by your group alone. Any violation will result in A *Report of Academic Dishonesty* which may result in disciplinary action from the university. For more information, see:

<http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/academic-honesty-policies-and-procedures.php>

You may use AI generated code for the project only. Guidelines are found in the *Development Requirements* document on the Schedule.