Course Syllabus - Fall B 2024
CSE 568: Biocomputing

Course Description

Bio-inspired computing methods are derived from information processing mechanisms found throughout the living world. Bio-inspired algorithms are used widely across the field of computer science in areas such as optimization, robotics, artificial intelligence, software engineering, security and modeling. This graduate-level introduction to bio-inspired computing discusses computational methods based on biological processes and how they are applied to solve computational problems. The course will cover computational algorithms, models, and applications that are inspired from three primary areas of biology: evolution, immunology and social insects. Cutting edge applications of biology in computing will also be discussed.

Specific topics covered include:

- Evolution
    - Biological underpinnings
    - Evolutionary computation and genetic programming
    - Search spaces and biased sampling, algorithms for recombination, selection and mutation
    - Applications in software engineering and artificial intelligence
- Immunology
    - Biological underpinnings
    - Applications: negative selection algorithm, artificial immune systems, computer security
- Social insects
    - Biological underpinnings
    - Applications: ant colony optimization (ACO) algorithms, trail following and network algorithms
    - Current frontiers: Collective computation and swarm robotics
- Biological perspective on neurocomputing
    - Why AI is harder than we think
    - Applications: Olfactory systems and similarity search
- Frontiers of bio-inspired computing

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- Metabolic scaling: Predicting power consumption on chips
- Molecular computing: DNA storage technologies

Technologies covered include:
- Python

Learning Outcomes

Learners completing this course will be able to:

- Use biological concepts and knowledge in algorithms.
- Solve computational problems with bio-inspired algorithms.
- Demonstrate familiarity with applications of bio-inspired computing in engineering.
- Discuss and use new biological concepts and applications

Estimated Workload/ Time Commitment Per Week

Average of 18 - 20 hours per week

Required Prior Knowledge and Skills

This course will be very challenging, and learners are expected to learn the necessary technologies on their own time.

Proficient Mathematical Skills and Theoretical Understanding

- Computer science knowledge, including data structures, algorithms and complexity theory
- Basic probability, statistics, and linear algebra
- Critical thinking and reading skills

Strong Application Skills

- Competence in computer programming
- Ability to read and comprehend Python code
- Confidence executing Python assignments
- Ability to read scientific literature

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Proficient Experience

- Mathematical programming maturity
- Strong Python programming experience
- Data analysis and reporting conventions

Course Access

Your ASU courses can be accessed by both my.asu.edu and asu.instructure.com. Bookmark both in the event that one site is down.

Technology Requirements

Proctoring

- Honorlock Minimum System Requirements

Hardware

- Standard personal computer with major operating system
- Reliable, strong Internet connection
- Webcam
- Microphone

Software/Other

- To complete coursework, these applications and languages are required and are provided through zyBooks, which can be accessed from your course:
  - Python 3.11
  - Jupyter Notebook

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Textbook and Readings

At the graduate level, inquiry, research, and critical reading are part of the learning experience; however, this course does not have a required textbook. Any required readings are provided within or are accessible through the course or the ASU Library.

For interested learners, the instructor of record and the faculty course designer recommend the texts:

M. Mitchell, *An introduction to Genetic Algorithms*. Cambridge, MA, USA: Mit Press, 1996.

L. M. Sompayrac, *How the Immune System Works*, 7th Edition. Wiley-Blackwell, 2022.

D. M. Gordon, *Ant Encounters: Interaction Networks and Colony Behavior*. Princeton University Press, 2010.

Course Schedule and Important Dates

Course teams will not be working on ASU's days off* and those are listed in the Course Schedule. Please review the ASU Days Off for more details.

Module: Title	Begins at 12:01 AM Arizona (AZ) Time	Ends at 11:59 PM Arizona (AZ) Time
Orientation and Onboarding Review You must complete the required tasks in the Orientation and Onboarding Review for Module 0: Welcome and Start Here to be unlocked.	October 8, 2025	October 12, 2025
Module 0: Welcome and Start Here You must complete required tasks in Module 0: Welcome and Start Here for the rest of the course to be unlocked.	October 13, 2025	October 16, 2025
Module 1: Bio-Inspired Computing	October 15, 2025	October 19, 2025
Module 2: Evolution I	October 20, 2025	October 26, 2025
Module 3: Evolutionary Algorithms II	October 27, 2025	November 2, 2025

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Module 4: Immunology I	November 3, 2025	November 9, 2025
Module 5: Immunology II (Cyber-Bio) *ASU Day Off: Tuesday, November 11, 2025	November 10, 2025	November 16, 2025
Module 6: Social Insects and Collective Computation	November 17, 2025	November 23, 2025
Course Evaluation You may also refer to ASU's Office of Evaluation and Educational Effectiveness (UOEEE) for dates.	This will be updated in your course.	This will be updated in your course.
Module 7: Biological Perspective on Neurocomputing *ASU Day Off: Thursday, November 27, 2025 and Friday, November 28, 2025	November 24, 2025	November 30, 2025
Module 8: Frontiers of Bio-Inspired Computation	December 01, 2025	December 11, 2025
Deadline to Submit all Graded Coursework	N/A	December 11, 2025
Final Exam	November 30, 2025	December 07, 2025
Request for Faculty Review: MCS Portfolio Project Report Inclusion Request Optional, degree-seeking learner degree requirement	November 24, 2025	Last submission deadline by December 29, 2025
Faculty Feedback for the Review: MCS Portfolio Project Report Inclusion Request Optional, degree-seeking learner degree requirement	December 19, 2025	January 12, 2026
Course Closes Past this date, Ed Discussion will no longer be monitored. Please download copies of what you would like from the course (e.g., Request for Faculty Review: MCS Portfolio Project Report Inclusion Request).		January 26, 2026

Grades are due December 15, 2025. Please see the ASU Academic Calendar for additional information.

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Late or Missed Coursework

When possible, kindly notify the instructor before a coursework deadline by creating a private thread in Ed.

If an urgent situation or emergency arises and you are unable to submit the assignment on time, please send the instructor a private thread on Ed as soon as you are able to.

Follow the appropriate University policies to request an accommodation for religious practices or to accommodate a missed assignment due to University-sanctioned activities.

Coursework Due Dates and Late Penalties

Unless otherwise noted, all coursework is due on **Sundays at 11:59 PM Arizona (AZ) time**. Due dates in your course are set up in Arizona Standard time. Use a Time Converter to ensure you account for the difference in time zones and remember to update your course settings to reflect your time zone (see your onboarding course for directions). Arizona does **not** observe daylight savings time.

Review specific due dates directly in your course. For learners with accommodations through Student Accessibility and Inclusive Learning Services (SAILS) and/or the Pat Tillman Veterans Center (PTVC), please work with your SAILS consultant and/or PTVC Advocacy Team, Connect, and your instructor.

This course has a designated deadline to submit all graded coursework. This deadline means graded coursework submitted after the date, will not be evaluated and result in a grade of zero (0) points. Please review the Course Schedule and Important Dates section.

Graded Discussion Prompts

A single-automatic late penalty of 100% is applied after the scheduled due date and time. The lowest, one (1), graded discussion prompt is automatically dropped from your grade.

- **Module 3 Graded Discussion Prompt**
- **Module 4 Graded Discussion Prompt**

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- **Module 5 Graded Discussion Prompt**

- **Module 7 Graded Discussion Prompt**

Graded Quizzes

A single-automatic late penalty of 5% is applied after the scheduled due date and time.

- **Module 2 Graded Quiz**

- **Module 3 Graded Quiz**

- **Module 4 Graded Quiz**

- **Module 5 Graded Quiz**

- **Module 6 Graded Quiz**

- **Module 7 Graded Quiz**

Assignment

There is no late penalty associated with the assignment; however, it is **required** to complete the projects correctly. The assignment is not counted toward your final grade in the class.

- **Learn to use a Genetic Algorithm Assignment**

Projects

A one-time 5% late penalty is applied after the scheduled due date and time.

- **Introduction to Graph Coloring Project**

- **Extensions to Balanced Colorings and Neutral Landscapes Project**

- **Introduction to Negative Selection Project**

- **Anomaly Detection with Negative Selection Project**

- **Modeling Collective Behavior in Ants Project**

- **Ant Colony Optimization for Network Route Repair Project**

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Exams

An automatic late penalty of 100% is applied after the scheduled due date and time.

- **Final Exam**

Course Content

Each course in the MCS program is uniquely designed by expert faculty, so learners can best master the learning outcomes. As a result, course features and experiences are not the same across all MCS courses. Learners are expected to plan accordingly to accommodate for these differences.

Content and Assessment Details

If you have specific questions related to instructional and assessment items in this course that you would like to be considered to be addressed in the Zoom meeting hosted by the instructor, please clearly indicate your request in your Ed Discussion thread.

For details regarding how points are earned in different types of assessments, please refer to your onboarding courses.

PlayPosit Lecture Playlists

The course content is presented through a collection of Playposit Playlists embedded in each module. Playposit is a video platform that prompts interaction and note-taking while viewing course content. The playlists launch automatically and you can playback the course content by selecting the video titles in the playlist. The videos can be rewatched, but playlist videos cannot be downloaded. The playlist pages will include the downloadable video transcripts and any applicable supplementary material. Other course materials that accompany the lectures will be found in the media guides.

A media guide is included at the beginning of each module in the Overview section. These guides are designed to give you a snapshot description of each module's media components and to provide PDF lecture slides or note-taking materials where available, so you can plan your learning and quickly go back and review material as you prepare for your coursework.

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Overview videos, assignment videos, and project-related videos do not have PDF lecture slides because they are not lectures and have associated documents specific to them. The interview videos build context for the course and do **not** have PDF slides.

Playposit Interactions: Knowledge Checks

Playposit provides opportunities for interaction and reflection as you learn the course content. After videos, there are interactions called knowledge checks. Interactions are designed to support your learning, highlight specific content, encourage active viewing and/or note-taking and provide practice opportunities. They are untimed, ungraded learning opportunities to test your knowledge of the concepts presented during the lecture videos. You may retake these as often as you would like at any point in the course.

You can toggle the clipboard icon on the left of the screen and select a review to see all the questions. You are accountable for this information as it may be assessed in different ways in other graded coursework.

There are no late penalties. Interactions are not counted toward your final grade in the class.

Readings

This course has required readings. Citations accompany topics and are often accessible through ASU's Library, if not directly available in the course.

A reading guide is included at the beginning of each module in the Overview section. These guides are designed to give you a snapshot description of each module's reading components, such as peer-reviewed journal articles, so you can plan your learning and quickly go back and review material as you prepare for your coursework.

Discussions

Ed Discussion

Ed Discussion (Ed) is being used in place of Canvas Discussion Forums. The purpose of Ed Discussion is to provide a place for learners to ask questions and receive answers from course staff and peers about course content and coursework. The course team is engaged in discussions, but it is also a space to clarify, support, and enrich learner-to-learner communication and learning. There are designated categories for course items. You must select a category and subcategory to start a thread.

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Discussions in Ed are designed to provide:
- Clarification
- Feedback
- Enrichment and deeper learning
- Connections between concepts or key ideas
- Reflection opportunities of real-world experiences
- Respectful debate and perspective building
- Resource sharing
- Networking

There are no late penalties. Ed is not counted toward your final grade in the course.

Designated Assignment and Project Discussion in Ed Discussion

Use Ed to discuss items relating to the course [assignments and/or projects]. Questions/Threads should be categorized by their designated title in Ed. Please check for questions already asked and answered, or marked as resolved.

There are no late penalties. Responses in Ed are not counted toward your final grade in the course.

Graded Discussion Prompts in Canvas

Modules 3, 4, 5, and 7 each include one (1) graded discussion prompt for a total of four (4) graded discussion prompts in the course. Each prompt provides a space for you to respond. After responding, you can see and comment on your peers' responses. Follow the directions in your course prior to posting.

Review the grading criteria in the rubric directly in the course for how your responses will be assessed. Three (3) of the four (4) graded discussion prompts count toward your overall grade in the course. The lowest, one (1), graded discussion prompt is automatically dropped from your grade.

There are late penalties associated with the graded discussions. The graded discussion prompts are counted toward your final grade in the class.

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Practice Quizzes

There is a practice quiz to help prepare you for each graded quiz. You may retake these as often as you like at any point in the course. You are encouraged to read the feedback, review your answer choices, and compare them to the correct answers. With the feedback as your guide, you may use these as opportunities to study for other assessments and tasks in the course.

There are no late penalties. Practice quizzes are **not** counted toward your final grade in the class.

Graded Quizzes

Modules 2-7 each include one (1) graded quiz for a total of six (6) graded quizzes in the course. Each graded quiz includes seven to fourteen (7-14) multiple-choice questions with a single correct answer and multiple answer questions. You will be allowed one (1) attempt for each of these quizzes. A time limit is set to complete each graded quiz. Once you open a graded quiz, the timer will start and you are to complete the graded quiz in a single session.

Quiz Title	Time Limit
Module 2 Graded Quiz	Sixty (60) minutes
Module 3 Graded Quiz	Ninety (90) minutes
Module 4 Graded Quiz	Sixty (60) minutes
Module 5 Graded Quiz	Sixty (60) minutes
Module 6 Graded Quiz	Sixty (60) minutes
Module 7 Graded Quiz	Sixty (60) minutes

Graded quizzes in this course include feedback but do not include the correct answers. Read the Graded Quiz and Exam Policy for your course for more information.

There are late penalties associated with graded quizzes. All graded quizzes count toward your final grade in the class.

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Assignment

This course includes one (1) individual assignment. All assignment overview documents and materials are provided in the Welcome and Start Here section of your course, so you can preview what is expected and design your own learning schedules to complete these on time.

There is no late penalty associated with the assignment; however, it is **required** to complete the projects correctly. The assignment is not counted toward your final grade in the class.

zyBooks

The assignment for this course will use zyBooks. You must complete and then submit your work in zyBooks. Carefully review submission directions outlined in the assignment overview document in order to correctly earn credit.

Individual Projects

This course includes six (6) individual projects. All project overview documents and materials are provided in the Welcome and Start Here section of your course, so you can preview what is expected and design your own learning schedules to complete these on time. Review the "Request for Faculty Review: MCS Portfolio Project Report Inclusion Request" section of this syllabus for what can be used from this course to potentially meet the degree portfolio requirement, which is optional and for degree-seeking learners only.

There are late penalties associated with the projects. These projects count toward your final grade in the class.

zyBooks

All projects for this course will use zyBooks. You must complete and then submit your work in zyBooks. Carefully review submission directions outlined in the project overview documents in order to correctly earn credit.

Request for Faculty Review: MCS Portfolio Project Report Inclusion Request

This is an optional task for degree-seeking students wanting to use this course's project[s] as part of their portfolio degree requirement/specialization requirements. Review your onboarding course and *Module 0: Welcome and Start Here* of your course for more details. The submission space is towards the end of the course.

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Important Note: This does **not** apply to degree-seeking students admitted for **Fall 2025 or later**. If you have any questions, please contact advising (mcsonline@asu.edu).

Your Request for Faculty Review: MCS Portfolio Project Report Inclusion Request will be evaluated only if the criteria is met (see your MCS Handbook for more details):

- Your course is designated as a portfolio eligible course
- You address the designated project(s), which equal 30% or more of your overall course grade
- Your final course letter grade of a B* or higher

*Degree-seeking students with course letter grades that are lower than a B will **not** have their submissions reviewed.

Although there are no late penalties, these requests must be submitted by the designated deadlines. The Request for Faculty Review: MCS Portfolio Project Report Inclusion Request does not count toward your final grade in the class.

Address any three (3) of the six (6) projects in your Request for Faculty Review: MCS Portfolio Project Report Inclusion Request:

- Introduction to Graph Coloring Project
- Extensions to Balanced Colorings and Neutral Landscapes Project
- Introduction to Negative Selection Project
- Anomaly Detection with Negative Selection Project
- Modeling Collective Behavior in Ants Project
- Ant Colony Optimization for Network Route Repair Project

Proctored Exam

You have one (1) proctored exam. This consists of a final exam. The proctored exam does **not** include feedback. Read the Graded Quiz and Exam Policy for your course for more information.

No late exams will be permitted or accepted and will result in a score of zero (0) points. This does **not** include established accommodations for learners receiving accommodations through Student Accessibility and Inclusive Learning Services (SAILS) and and/or the Pat Tillman Veterans Center (PTVC).

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The Proctored exam counts toward your final grade in the class.

Exam Details	Final Exam
Content Covered	Modules 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8
Question Type **[Grading Note:** For multiple choice questions with multiple correct answers, you earn credit for each correct answer option selected; however, credit is automatically deducted for each incorrect answer option selected. You cannot earn less than zero (0) for any question. If no answer option is selected, you will earn zero (0) points for no attempt, so it is best to provide an answer to every question.]	Multiple-choice questions with a single correct answer Multiple-choice questions with multiple correct answers
Number of Questions	16 total questions (15 content questions + 1 academic integrity question)
Availability Start	Sunday, November 30, 2025 at 12:01 AM AZ Time
Availability End	Sunday, December 07, 2025 at 11:59 PM AZ Time
Scheduling Reminder In order to have enough time to complete the exam, you should start your exam no later than the listed date and time to ensure you have enough time to complete it before the due date.	Sunday, December 07, 2025 at 9:01 PM AZ Time
Duration	120 minutes + plan for at least 15 minutes for proctoring set up

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Proctoring

Learners needing allowance accommodations need to work through the Student Accessibility and Inclusive Learning Services (SAILS) and/or the Pat Tillman Veterans Center (PTVC).

LockDown Browser

LockDown Browser will proctor your graded quizzes this session. It is an online proctoring service that allows you to take your exam from the comfort of your home. You do **not** need to create an account or schedule an appointment in advance. It is available twenty-four hours a day/seven days a week/and three hundred sixty-five days a year (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year), and all that is required is a computer, a working webcam/microphone, your ID, and a stable internet connection.

Review your onboarding course and the Welcome and Start Here section in your course for more information about LockDown Browser and how to download the required software.

Graded Quiz Allowances

Any items **not** included in this list are **not** allowed during the assessment sessions or in your assessment space.

Reminders

- Instructors reserve the right to adjust scoring based on academic integrity violations (e.g., not following the allowances).

- You are to independently take the assessment in a single session without leaving the testing space (e.g., no bathroom breaks) to ensure proctoring of the entire session.

- You will be allowed one (1) attempt to take and complete your assessment. Once you open your assessment, your testing session begins and you will need to complete it within the allotted time. Your assessment will automatically be submitted if it is **not** completed before the deadline.

- Select a location where you can comfortably take your assessment without interruption and have a video recording taken of yourself and your workspace environment. This area should also be free of distractions and interruptions.

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- Turn off all other devices (e.g., tablets, phones, second computers) and place them outside of your reach.

- Clear your environment of all external materials **not** permitted. Review the allowances to ensure you know what is permitted.

- Before starting the assessment, know how much time is available for it by checking your course and syllabus, and that you have allotted sufficient time to complete it.

- Remain at your device for the duration of the assessment.

- If the device or networking environment is different than what was used previously with the **Webcam Check** and **System & Network Check** in LockDown Browser, run the checks again prior to starting the test.

- You are to stay within a clear view of the webcam throughout the duration of the proctored session.

- To produce a good webcam video:

  - Avoid wearing headwear (e.g., hats).

  - Ensure your device is on a firm surface (e.g., desk or table). Do **not** have the device on your lap, a bed or other surface where the device or you are likely to move.

  - If using a built-in webcam, avoid tilting the screen after the webcam setup is complete.

  - Take the assessment in a well-lit room and avoid backlighting, such as sitting with your back to an open window.

- Remember that LockDown Browser will prevent you from accessing other websites or applications; you will be unable to exit the assessment until all questions are completed and submitted unless otherwise directed in the allowances.

- Before the assessment concludes and the proctoring session ends, all scratch paper must be destroyed and all whiteboard markings must be erased.

Specific Allowances
- **Web links:** yes

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- **Online calculator:** https://www.desmos.com/scientific
- **Open book:** no
- **Pre-written paper notes:** Yes
  - **Handwritten notes**: Hard; five (5) sheet/page; standard letter-size (8.5 inches x 11 inches) or A4 paper; double-sided (front and back)
- **Scratch paper**: yes
  - Unlimited amount of blank scratch paper of any size, writing utensils (e.g., pens, pencils, markers, and/or highlighters) and erasers; please have extra ones in your testing area should you run out of ink, the pencil breaks, etc.
  - Before the quiz concludes and the proctoring session ends, all scratch paper must be destroyed and all whiteboard markings must be erased. The last question in the quiz will be a confirmation of learners executing these ASU academic integrity actions.
- **On-Screen Calculator**: yes
  - Scientific Calculator
  - Online calculator (https://www.desmos.com/scientific)
- **Handheld calculator**: yes
  - Scientific Calculator

Honorlock

Honorlock will proctor your exam this session. Honorlock is an online proctoring service. You do **not** need to create an account or schedule an appointment in advance. Honorlock is available twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week (24 hours/7 days).

Honorlock will be enabled for at least one practice assessment in your course to prepare you for the proctored exam in this course.

Review your onboarding course and the Welcome and Start Here section in your course for more information about Honorlock and how to download the required Chrome Extension.

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Final Exam Allowances

Any items **not** included in this list are **not** allowed during the exam or in your exam space.

Reminders

- You are to independently take your exam in a single session. Once you open your exam, your testing session begins and you will need to complete it within the allotted time. Your exam will automatically be submitted if it is **not** completed before the deadline. You will be allowed one (1) attempt to take and complete your exam.

- If you anticipate needing bathroom breaks during your exam, prior to opening the exam, please post a private thread to your instructor in Ed. If you take bathroom breaks during the exam, and you have not already notified your instructor, please post a private thread, so your instructor is aware.

- You are to stay within a clear view of the webcam throughout the duration of the proctored exam session, unless needing a bathroom break.

- Before the exam concludes and the proctoring session ends, all scratch paper must be destroyed and all whiteboard markings must be erased.

- The last question in the exam will be a confirmation of you upholding ASU academic integrity.

- This is a closed resource exam. No resources are allowed.

- The last question in the exam will be a confirmation of you upholding ASU academic integrity.

Specific Allowances

- **Site URLs:** no

- **Open book:** no

- **Pre-written paper notes:** Yes

    - **Handwritten notes**: Hard; one (1) sheet/page; standard letter-size (8.5 inches x 11 inches) or A4 paper; double-sided (front and back)

- **Scratch paper**: Yes

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      ○ Unlimited amount of blank scratch paper of any size, writing utensils (e.g., pens, pencils, markers, and/or highlighters) and erasers; please have extra ones in your testing area should you run out of ink, the pencil breaks, etc.

      ○ Before the exam concludes and the proctoring session ends, all scratch paper must be destroyed and all whiteboard markings must be erased. The last question in the exam will be a confirmation of learners executing these ASU academic integrity actions.

- **On-Screen Calculator**: yes

      ○ Basic Calculator

- **Handheld calculator**: yes

      ○ Not a separate device's calculator (e.g., mobile/cell phone) or anything with Internet access.

      ○ Scientific Calculator

- **Restroom breaks**: No

- **Copy and Paste**: No

- **Hats**: No

- **Headphones**: No

- **Take Exam in a Public Area**: No

- **Mobile Phone Use**: No

- **Background Noise (Occasional sounds expected in the testing area)**: No

Course Grade Breakdown

Course Work	Quantity	Team or Individual	Points
Graded Discussions Three (3) of the four (4) graded discussion prompts count toward your overall grade in the course. The lowest, one (1), graded discussion prompt is automatically dropped from your grade.	4	Individual	30

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Graded Quizzes	6	Individual	150
Projects*	6	Individual	600
Final Exam	1	Individual	220
Total Course Points			1000

*The project(s) count for 30% or more of the overall course grade, so this is a portfolio eligible course. See the MCS Graduate Handbook for more information about the portfolio requirement if you are a degree student.

Grade Scale

You must earn a cumulative grade of 70% to earn a "C" in this course. You must earn at least a "C" to receive graduate credit. This course does **not** have grade curving. Three (3) of the four (4) graded discussion prompts count toward your overall grade in the course. The lowest, one (1), graded discussion prompt is automatically dropped from your grade. Grades will be rounded. Grades in this course will **not** include pluses or minuses.

The instructor reserves the right to adjust individual grades based on, but not limited to: violations of academic integrity.

Range of Points	Percentage	Letter Grade
900 - 1000	90 - 100	**A**
800 - 899.99	80 - 89.99	**B**
700 - 799.99	70 - 79.99	**C**
600 - 699.99	60 - 69.99	**D**
0 - 599.99	0 - 59.99	**E**

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Zoom Meetings

This course may have three (3) types of Zoom meeting opportunities:

- **Instructor Zoom Events:** If learners have specific questions or topics of interest to be discussed, they can indicate their request in an Ed Discussion thread prior to the meeting. Although it may not be possible to address all requests during the Zoom event, the instructor is interested in tailoring this time to the learners' questions and interests. The instructor will be following a set agenda, so please be mindful of that when engaging in the Zoom event.

- **Instructional Assistant (IA) Zoom Support Sessions:** These sessions offer a chance for learners to get their questions answered from the IA(s). Although the course team is responsive to trends in Ed Discussion, these events focus on addressing learners' specific questions related to content: clarifications, reteaching, assessment preparation, etc.

- **Grader Zoom Support Sessions:** These sessions are singularly focused on addressing questions related to **grading**.

Check the Zoom tab in the navigation menu of your course. Although we try to be consistent for our learners' planning purposes, the schedule is subject to change throughout the course, so stay up-to-date on the event details by checking Ed Discussion and course announcements.

Read about the specific policies related to Zoom meetings directly in your onboarding course and your course pages: Syllabus, ASU Course Policies, and any additional course-specific policy information in *Module 0: Welcome and Start Here*. Additional information may be included in the Policies section of this syllabus. You are responsible for adhering to all policies.

Zoom Recordings

- Instructor Zoom Events are **recorded and shared** through the "Zoom" navigation link in your course. These can be found by going to the "Cloud Recordings" tab. These recordings will be unavailable after 120 days.

- IA Zoom Support Sessions are **recorded**, but **not uploaded** into the course. It is at the discretion of the instructor if these sessions will be shared during the course session.

- Grader Zoom Support Sessions are **recorded**, but **not uploaded** into the course.

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Policies

Please refer to the ASU Course Policies section in your course, your onboarding course, and *Module 0: Welcome and Start Here* of your course in addition to the policies listed in this section.

Code of Conduct

The aim of education is the intellectual, personal, social, and ethical development of the individual. The educational process is ideally conducted in an environment that encourages reasoned discourse, intellectual honesty, openness to constructive change, and respect for the rights of all individuals. Self-discipline and a respect for the rights of others in the university community are necessary for the fulfillment of such goals. The Student Code of Conduct is designed to promote this environment at Arizona State University.

The Student Code of Conduct sets forth the standards of conduct expected of students who choose to join the university community. Students who violate these standards will be subject to disciplinary sanctions in order to promote their own personal development, to protect the university community, and to maintain order and stability on campus.

Students are expected to follow the ABOR Student Code of Conduct and the ASU Student Code of Conduct at all times.

Expected Behavior

Students are expected to follow the ASU Student Code of Conduct and are expected to acknowledge and embrace the FSE Student Professionalism Expectation.

An instructor may withdraw a student from a course with a mark of "W" or "E" or employ other interventions when the student's behavior disrupts the educational process. For more information, review SSM 201–10.

If you identify something as unacceptable classroom behavior (e.g., in Canvas, Ed Discussion, Zoom, etc.), please notify the course team.

Our classroom community rules are to:
- Be professional
- Be positive

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- Be polite
- Be proactive

Academic Integrity

All engineering students are expected to adhere to the ASU Student Honor Code and the ASU academic integrity policy, which can be found at https://provost.asu.edu/academic-integrity/policy. Students are responsible for reviewing this policy and understanding each of the areas in which academic dishonesty can occur. If you have taken this course before, you may not reuse or submit any part of your previous assignments without the express written permission from the instructor.

All student academic integrity violations are reported to the Fulton Schools of Engineering Academic Integrity Office (AIO). Withdrawing from this course will not absolve you of responsibility for an academic integrity violation and any sanctions that are applied. The AIO maintains a record of all violations and has access to academic integrity violations committed in all other ASU college/schools.

Specific academic integrity announcements for this class are:

1. Using or copying code from outside resources is **not permitted**. Learners may reference outside material but should complete coursework on their own (see statement 2).

2. If you reference outside material, including code, include citations.

3. Sharing code amongst peers is **not permitted**.

4. Discussing intellectual content of assignments and projects is permitted.

When in doubt, reach out to the course instructor for clarification on these policies.

Use of Generative AI is Generally Permitted Within Guidelines

Use of AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Copilot, Gemini, etc.) is generally welcome in this class. Examples of ways that AI tools can be used include brainstorming, drafting, editing, and revising assignments. You must inform the instructor when you have used an AI tool. This site provides examples of how to properly cite any use of generative AI. Any submitted course assignment that does not explicitly articulate how generative AI was used will be assumed to have been created entirely without its use. Using AI tools to generate content without proper acknowledgement will be considered a violation of the ASU Academic Integrity Policy, and students may be subject to sanctions for non-allowable use. If

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you have any questions about what is permitted, please contact the instructor to discuss *before* submitting your work.

Copyright

You must refrain from uploading to any course shell, discussion board, or website used by the course instructor or other course forum, material that is not the student's/learner's original work, unless the student/learner first complies with all applicable copyright laws; faculty members reserve the right to delete materials on the grounds of suspected copyright infringement.

The contents of this course, including lectures (Zoom recorded lectures included) and other instructional materials, are copyrighted materials. Students may not share outside the class, including uploading, selling or distributing course content or notes taken during the conduct of the course. Any recording of class sessions is authorized only for the use of students enrolled in this course during their enrollment in this course. Recordings and excerpts of recordings may not be distributed to others (see ACD 304–06, "Commercial Note Taking Services" and ABOR Policy 5-308 F.14 for more information).

Graded Quiz and Exam Policy

Each course in the MCS program is uniquely designed by expert faculty so that learners can best master the learning outcomes specific to each course. By design, course features and experiences are different across all MCS courses.

In the MCS program, we strive to provide learners with exercises and applied practice beyond quizzes and exams that align with the hands-on nature of the computer science industry. Ungraded practice opportunities may include, but are not limited to: in-video-questions (IVQs), knowledge check quizzes (KCs), module practice quizzes, practice exams, and other coursework. When available, the questions and correct answers are provided to learners. Depending on the type of questions, auto-generated feedback is built into the course to further help learners learn in real-time. Please thoroughly review your course to ensure that you are aware of the types of practice opportunities available to you.

For academic integrity purposes, once grades are made available, learners will see their overall total scores. Like other standardized tests, such as the GRE and SAT, learners will receive a singular

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grade for the graded quizzes and exams, but the questions, correct and incorrect answers, and feedback to each question will **not** be provided.

If learners desire 1:1 feedback, please send a private thread to the course team on Ed and/or attend a Zoom meeting with the course team. Rather than receiving the exact questions learners had correct and incorrect and the answers to those questions, learners will likely receive the concepts that were covered in the assessment questions so they will know what they need to review prior to other assessments and how to apply this information in their professional environments.

Absence Policies

There are no required or mandatory attendance events in this online course. Different types of Zoom meetings hosted by any course team member do not take attendance.

Excused absences do not relieve students of responsibility for any part of the coursework required during the period of absence. If exceptions for graded coursework deadlines need to be made for known excused absences, please reach out to the course team by the end of the second week of the course by sending a private thread to the course team on Ed. Review availability windows and due dates for coursework and schedule accordingly. The exam availability windows allow for your own flexibility and you are expected to plan ahead.

Review the resources for what qualifies as an excused absence and review the late penalties in the Assignment Deadlines and Late Penalties section of the syllabus and the course:

a. Excused absences related to religious observances/practices that are in accord with ACD 304–04, "Accommodation for Religious Practices" (please see Religious Holidays and Observances).

b. Excused absences related to university sanctioned events/activities that are in accord with ACD 304–02, "Missed Classes Due to University-Sanctioned Activities".

c. Excused absences related to missed class due to military line-of-duty activities that are in accord with ACD 304–11, "Missed Class Due to Military Line-of-Duty Activities," and SSM 201–18, "Accommodating Active Duty Military".

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Zoom Meetings

Recording Notice

Instructors will record Zoom meetings. An archived recording will be made available in Canvas for enrolled students, instructors, or support personnel. Creation of recordings for individuals or groups beyond these requires consent from students who are recorded.

Expectations

The environment should remain professional at all times. Inappropriate content/visuals, language, tone, feedback, etc. will not be tolerated, reported and subject to disciplinary action. Review the policy regarding Expected Behavior section of the syllabus, ASU Student Code of Conduct, and FSE Student Professionalism Expectation for more detailed information.

Policy Against Threatening Behavior, per the Student Services Manual, (SSM 104-02)

Students, faculty, staff, and other individuals do not have an unqualified right of access to university grounds, property, or services (see SSM 104-02). Interfering with the peaceful conduct of university-related business or activities or remaining on campus grounds after a request to leave may be considered a crime. All incidents and allegations of violent or threatening conduct by an ASU student (whether on- or off-campus) must be reported to the ASU Police Department (ASU PD) and the Office of the Dean of Students.

Disability Accommodations

Suitable accommodations are made for students with disabilities. Students needing accommodations must register with ASU Student Accessibility and Inclusive Learning Services (SAILS) office. Students should communicate the need for an accommodation at the beginning of each course so there is sufficient time for it to be properly arranged. These requests should be submitted through the online portal. See ACD 304-08 Classroom and Testing Accommodations for Students with Disabilities. SAILS will send the instructor a notification of accommodations. It is recommended that students communicate with instructors regarding documented accommodations.

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Harassment and Sexual Discrimination

Arizona State University is committed to providing an environment free of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation for the entire university community, including all students, faculty members, staff employees, and guests. ASU expressly prohibits discrimination, harassment, and retaliation by employees, students, contractors, or agents of the university based on any protected status: race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and genetic information.

Title IX is a federal law that provides that no person be excluded on the basis of sex from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. Both Title IX and university policy make clear that sexual violence and harassment based on sex is prohibited. An individual who believes they have been subjected to sexual violence or harassed on the basis of sex can seek support, including counseling and academic support, from the university. If you or someone you know has been harassed on the basis of sex or sexually assaulted, you can find information and resources at https://sexualviolenceprevention.asu.edu/faqs.

As a mandated reporter, I am obligated to report any information I become aware of regarding alleged acts of sexual discrimination, including sexual violence and dating violence. ASU Counseling Services, https://eoss.asu.edu/counseling is available if you wish to discuss any concerns confidentially and privately. ASU online students may access 360 Life Services, https://goto.asuonline.asu.edu/success/online-resources.html.

Photo Requirement

Arizona State University requires each enrolled student and university employee to have on file with ASU a current photo that meets ASU's requirements (your "Photo"). ASU uses your Photo to identify you, as necessary, to provide you educational and related services as an enrolled student at ASU. If you do not have an acceptable Photo on file with ASU, or if you do not consent to the use of your photo, access to ASU resources, including access to course material or grades (online or in person) may be negatively affected, withheld or denied.

Warning of Offensive Class Materials

If you feel any course material is offensive, please reach out to the instructor by sending a private thread on Ed Discussion.

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Course Creator

Stephanie Forrest, Ph.D.

Stephanie Forrest is Professor of Computer Science in the School of Computing and Augmented Intelligence (SCAI) at Arizona State University, where she also directs the Biodesign CSE 598 Syllabus Fall B 2022 Center for Biocomputation, Security and Society. Prior to joining ASU in 2017, she was at the University of New Mexico where she served as Dept. Chair 2006-2011. She is a member of the Santa Fe Institute External Faculty, where she has also served as co-Chair of its Science Board and Interim VP for Academic Affairs. In 2013-2014 she served at the U.S. Dept. of State as a Senior Science Advisor for cyber policy. She was educated at St. John's College (B.A.) and the University of Michigan (M.S. and Ph.D. in Computer Science).

Her interdisciplinary research focuses on the intersection of biology and computation, including bio-inspired computing, biological modeling, and complex systems. In computer science, she focuses on bio-inspired applications in cybersecurity and software engineering. Her research has developed pioneering cybersecurity methods and a new method for automatically repairing software bugs. Her biological modeling work focuses on living systems that consist of large evolving populations, particularly, the immune system and several different evolutionary systems.

Some of her awards include: The 2020 Test of Time Award from the IEEE Security and Privacy Symposium; The 2019 Ten Year Most Influential Paper Award from the International Conference on Software Engineering, the Santa Fe Institute Stanislaw Ulam Memorial Lectures (2013), the ACM/AAAI Allen Newell Award (2011), and the NSF Presidential Young Investigator Award (1991). She is a Fellow of the IEEE.

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