

Database and Transaction Systems

CS 417
Spring 2025

Instructor Tom Kelliher, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Computer Science
Pronouns: he/him/his
Office: Julia Rogers 133
Office hours: M, W, 11:00 am–12:00 pm; Tu, Th, 11:30 am–12:30 pm
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Course Textbook and Other Resources:

1. C. M. Ricardo, and S. D. Urban, and K. C. Davis, *Databases Illuminated*, 4th edition. Jones & Bartlett Learning, 2023. Required.
2. See the course web site for additional resources:
<http://phoenix.goucher.edu/~kelliher/s2025/cs417/>

Meetings JR 121, TuTh 1:30–3:20 pm.

Description The study of the underpinnings of modern database design at the application level, with an implementation of a web-based transaction processing system. Deeper issues which are essential to effective database design include relational algebra, tuple calculus, data organization and indexing strategies, and query processing and optimization.

Prerequisite CS 205.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Model and manipulate data using a relational model.
2. Formulate and implement a solution to a problem through a project of substantial complexity.

Expectations You are expected to give CS 417 the attention it deserves as a college-level computer science course. In particular, you are expected to:

- Spend an average eight hours per week outside of class working on the course. This includes the entire range of activities from preparing for class, to working-on and completing outside-of-class assignments, to completing in-class assignments that you are unable to complete in class, to attending office hours.

- Attend class each time it meets, with all assigned preparation activities completed. During each class meeting, you are expected to pay attention respectfully, take notes, work productively, and not interrupt the learning of your classmates.
- Take initiative to seek out help in a combination of forms and channels when needed, and to be honest about when help is needed.

Registering for a four-credit class is a 12-hour-per-week commitment, four hours of which take place during our class meetings. Outside-of-class time should be spent in productive, engaged work in individual and group study and in attending office hours. Unless stated otherwise, your work is to be completed individually; see the Academic Integrity section for details.

Grading:

Grade Distribution

At the conclusion of the semester, your grades will be weighted as detailed below, rounded up, and converted to a letter grade as follows: A = [92–100], A- = [90–92), B+ = [88–90), B = [82–88), B- = [80–82), etc.

Graded Work

As necessary, grades will be scaled to a [0–100] scale.

1. Assignments — There will be a number of written assignments during the semester, accounting for 20% of your final grade. Assignments are to be completed individually.
2. Semester Project, 40% of your final grade. You will be working with one partner or individually. Projects will be demonstrated on the last day of class, May 8.
3. Exams — There will be two semester exams, accounting for 40% of your final grade. The first exam is scheduled for Mar. 11. The second exam, which will be cumulative, is scheduled for May 14. Each exam is worth 20%.

Work submitted after the due date shown in Canvas is subject to a 10% late penalty. A few days after each due date, I will close each assignment to further submissions. Once an assignment is closed, no further submissions will be accepted.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty is detrimental to the integrity of our learning community and will not be tolerated. All of us, including me, are bound by the Academic Honor Code. The College's Academic Honor Code is available at www.goucher.edu/documents/General/AcademicHonorCode.pdf. I expect you to be familiar with its obligations and requirements. I have also written a statement that applies the Honor Code to this course. This statement is available on the course web site (see *Integrity in My Computer Science Courses*).

Disabilities

If you have a documented disability you should contact the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) to arrange for academic accommodations for the course.

Carefully follow all of ACE's policies and procedures. Once you have coordinated with ACE, email me to make me aware of your accommodation. I will receive official correspondence from ACE; however, I would also like to receive an email from all students requiring accommodations for the semester. If your accommodation involves taking exams at ACE, it is your responsibility to schedule your exams with ACE. When scheduling exams with ACE, be sure to carbon copy me on any emails with ACE so that I have confirmation that everything is in order. This process is to be repeated for all exams throughout the semester.

Achieving Academic Success

If you are struggling in this or other courses, I strongly encourage you to reach out for help sooner rather than later. Proactive strategies could include contacting me directly, attending office hours, and/or taking advantage of the multitude of academic services that the Academic Center for Excellence offers. The responsibility is upon you to recognize when you need help and to take the steps necessary to succeed. Goucher College has a variety of resources available to help you succeed in your classes; use them!

Office hours are perhaps the most effective and immediate way to get help. If I must cancel office hours, you will receive warning in advance and I will schedule "make-up" office hours. You do not need an appointment for office hours; simply drop in and ask your questions. My goal in office hours is to answer your questions in such a way that you will not only get your question answered, but also strengthen your ability to answer your own questions. You may also call my office during office hours. If you cannot make office hours due to a scheduling conflict, you may schedule time with me outside the normal office hours period. I will do my best to accommodate you.

If you don't need an immediate answer to a question, you may ask it by email. I check email several times during the day, and usually during the early evening. On the weekends, I usually only check my email first thing in the morning.

Student-Athletes

According to the Goucher College policy on Student-Athlete Responsibilities, if you are a student-athletes, you are expected to contact me at the beginning of the semester to request approval for absences associated with athletic events (or scheduled departure times for such events) that conflict with the regularly scheduled class meeting time. The approved absences will then be listed on a contract signed by both me and you. Additionally, it is the responsibility of the student-athlete to complete all assignments covered in class during the approved absences and to obtain all handouts, assignments, and notes from the missed class(es). Student-athletes who fail to coordinate with me prior to any class absences will not be permitted to make-up missed assignments.

Student Responsibilities in Academic Conflicts (Field trips, Performances, etc.)

According to the Goucher College policy on Academic Conflicts, if you are in a situation in which you are confronted with obligations or responsibilities (ranging from participation in field trips in the visual arts or the sciences or rehearsals or performances in the performing arts to extra-curricula activities at which students are representing the College such as model senate events or varsity

athletic contests) that conflict with regularly scheduled academic classes, you are expected to contact me at the beginning of the semester, or as soon as the conflict is known, to request approval for absences that conflict with the regularly scheduled class time. The approved absences will then be listed on a contract signed by both me and you. Additionally, it is your responsibility to complete all assignments covered in class during the approved absences and to obtain all handouts, assignments, and notes from the missed class(es). Students who fail to coordinate with me prior to any class absences will not be permitted to make-up missed assignments.