Registration FAQ

What’s the difference between AL1 and BL1?

In Spring 2019, we will be trying out two new approaches to how we use our class meeting times for CS 233. Both versions of the class will be run expecting that students will watch online video lectures before attending class and then class time will be spent reviewing video content and then solving problems in groups. Both sections will have the same online homework assignments, same laboratory assignments, and same exams. The only difference will be where and how students use class time.

In the “A” section, students will attend three highly interactive lectures per week. Students will work through a series of short problems, alternating between individual work and working with a partner. We will use a mix of clicker questions and short exercises. Students will also attend one discussion section per week. In the “A” discussion sections, students will work in teams of four solving more complicated problems. Students will take a weekly quiz during discussion sections. Attendance is required only in the lecture and discussion section. Attendance at the lab section is optional but encouraged.

In the “B” section, students will attend three discussion sections per week. Students will work in teams of three, solving more complicated problems. Group work will be mixed with debrief activities and code reviews. There will also be a weekly quiz. Students will also attend one lecture section per week. In the “B” lecture section, lectures will focus on big picture issues and common problems that students make. We will use a mix of clicker questions and short exercises. Attendance is required at both the lecture and discussion section. Students in the B sections are welcome to attend any A lab (not discussion) section that fits their schedule or a special lab office hour that we will schedule after the semester starts.

Getting registered for CS 233

Q: The class is full, but I want to register for the course, can you add me?
A: Sorry, no. I have no control over enrollment no matter how delighted I would be for you to take the course.

Q: Are you sure? I read that….
A: I am absolutely certain that I have no control over enrollment. My excitement for you to take the course is unfortunately irrelevant. It is unfortunate that there is considerable misinformation about this process floating about.

Q: Okay, can you add me to the waiting list?
A: It is now departmental policy to not have wait lists for courses because the enrollment system is not intelligently setup to handle wait lists. Wait lists have been artificially giving students hope and eating up too much time for the advising office. Wait lists have not been working, so they have been cut.

Q: Can you increase the enrollment cap?
A: No, I cannot increase the enrollment cap. I have no control over enrollment.

Q: Will the cap be raised?
A: Possibly. Depends on when you are asking. Enrollment is usually capped a little lower than maximum to enable particular types of students to be added to the course at specific times (e.g., some seats are reserved for transfer students early in the enrollment period). This process again is again outside my control, and I honestly don’t know how it works. I believe that the caps are raised shortly before the semester begins and about a week or so after it starts. If you have more questions about enrollment caps, talk to the advising office in Siebel Center.

Q: But I really need to take this course to graduate <on time, in 3 semesters, insert other reason>. Can’t you make an exception?
A: I really am sorry, but I have no control over enrollment. If you have a truly extenuating circumstance, then your best bet is to talk to the advising office, but getting into the course is unlikely even if you do talk to them.

Q: Well, what can I do then?
A: Check back in the registration system every day and hope that someone has dropped and you can take their slot. Someone (even many people) WILL drop, but you will need to be vigilant to take their spot before the semester begins.

Q: The last day to add courses is soon, and I'm still not registered for the course but still want to add it. Can I add the course after the last day to add courses?

A: Yes, there will still be opportunities to add courses after the last day to add courses, but it will still be a bit difficult to add the course. There will likely be a handful of seats that open up in the course over the course of next week. If you want to add, you will need to get a late add form from the advising office and ask me to sign it. If you want me to sign the form, I will expect that you have been doing the activities listed above. I want you to be in a position to succeed. If you have not been keeping up with the work, I can't in good conscience sign your form because I don't want to set you up to fail.

**What you should do until you are registered**

Q: The semester has started, and I'm still not registered for the course but still want add it. What should I be doing now?

A: 1) attend lecture and participate in the clicker questions, 2) complete the prairielearn homework assignments, 3) attend any discussion section and lab that works for you, but be respectful to those who are actually registered and let them find seats first, 4) sign up for Piazza so that you don’t miss any announcements, 5) follow along with the labs, completing them as assigned. Because you can access prairielearn and the labs through github before registering, there will be NO late policy for prairielearn or labs for students who add the course late aside from the existing late submissions policies.

**What to do once you have become registered**

Q: I just added the course, can I still submit the labs I missed for full credit?

A: You can submit labs late only in accordance with the existing late policy for labs. Note that this policy is different from previous semesters due to the switch to github.

Q: I just added the course, can I still get full credit for the discussion section quizzes I missed?

A: Sorry. No. There is no practical way for us to give credit back for these assignments. If you attended discussion sections as described above, you should have been able to take the quizzes when they were offered and you should have had them graded previously.

Q: I just added the course, can I still get full credit for the PrairieLearn homework?

A: You should have been keeping up with the PrairieLearn homework as that access was not restricted. You can still earn up to 80% of the credit for any late submissions on PrairieLearn.