

CS 1200 First Year Seminar
Fall 2025
Virtual (Asynchronous)

Instructional Team

Instructor

Claire Wassinger, M.Ed.

617.373.6186

c.wassinger@northeastern.edu

Office Hours: By appointment (please email me to connect)

Course Coordinator

Alex Gonzalez

a.gonzalez@northeastern.edu

Khoury Mentor TAs

Listed on Canvas page

Course Description

CS 1200 seeks to support students in their transition to Khoury and Northeastern, as well as their holistic development into responsible members of these communities. This course explores Khoury's curriculum, introducing a wide range of Computer Science, Information Science, Data Science, and Cybersecurity concepts and tools; incorporates interactive projects throughout to provide hands-on, portfolio- building, and interest-piquing experience; connects students with academic advisors; and promotes utilization of campus resources.

Because this course is asynchronous, we do not meet as a class at any set time. It is thus vital to manage your time wisely and utilize course resources (more info below) to succeed in this course and achieve the desired learning outcomes.

This syllabus provides an overview of the course and its expectations. Please note the syllabus is subject to change.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should:

1. Be able to navigate Northeastern resources
2. Feel personally prepared to tackle the next four years at Khoury while feeling confident, capable, and secure in personal knowledge
3. Understand the differences between and foundational applications of Computer Science, Cybersecurity, Information Science, and Data Science
4. Gain exposure to common, modern tools used in industry and within future Khoury courses

Course Structure

This is a pass/fail course. Per the University:

Grades recorded on the basis of the pass/fail system do not figure in the computation of the grade-point average. Satisfactory completion of all courses taken on the pass/fail system is designated on the student's permanent record by the letter S. Unsatisfactory work is designated by the letter U. Any unsatisfactory grade must be handled according to the existing policy of the college but must never be cleared through the election of the same course pass/fail, except when this system is the only one used by the college for grading the course.

This course’s content is organized into modules. Depending on the specific module, some weeks may require you to complete one module, and others might require you to complete two modules.

Evaluation

Your grade will be evaluated based on three categories:

1. Course Engagement and Participation
2. Campus Resource Commitments
3. Module and Droplet Completion

Course Engagement and Participation includes completion of course discussion posts. Credit requires actively logging on and completing discussion posts on a weekly basis. **Campus Resource Commitments** are in-person and/or virtual meetings held with important campus resources, including course TAs and other student-facing offices.

Droplet and Module Completion require completion of information covered in our Canvas page or on the Khoury Odyssey platform.

For credit on droplet completion, you must fully complete each required droplet at a 100% completion rate. Failure to do so will result in no points for that droplet, unless it is completed to 100% over the following days, resulting in partial credit following our course’s late policy.

NOTE: each module differs slightly in structure. Thus, some modules have more check-ins and submissions than others, and not all modules have submissions.

Category	Weight
Course Engagement and Participation	45%
Campus Resource Commitments	15%
Droplet and Module Completion	40%

Since this course is pass/fail, students must receive a 65.0% or higher overall grade in this course to pass the class.

AI Course Policy

Generative AI is a valuable tool for many purposes, but in this course, we will be learning skills that you will need to be able to apply on your own before you can succeed with more advanced work in your career and future courses. You will also need these skills to spot and correct errors in the output of AI. Therefore, AI is not permitted in this course except when explicitly stated.

Northeastern University has a general AI use policy that [can be found here](#).

Late Submission Policy

The modules in this course are organized in such a way that you cannot proceed to the next module without completing the current one. So, it is important that you progress through all the course material in a timely fashion.

However, in the case of not hitting the deadline of Sunday evenings at 11:59 pm, the late submission penalty will be 25% per each day a particular assignment is submitted late.

Even if your submission goes past four days, you'll still need to complete the late assignments in order to move on to the subsequent material.

Note that any assignments not submitted by the deadline may be assigned the grade of zero on Canvas. If you submit within the penalty time window, that score will be updated.

A Note on Scheduled and Missed TA Appointments

Once you schedule your appointments with your TA, please mark that time/date down so that you remember to attend! If you are no longer able to attend, please contact the resource ahead of your scheduled appointment so they are aware.

There will be a grading penalty for missed TA sessions. If you miss or are more than 10 minutes late to your scheduled TA sessions, you may reschedule once more. However, you will only be able to earn up to half credit for completing the following session. If you miss or are more than 10 minutes late to your second session, you will not earn credit for the assignment.

Campus Resource Commitments

As noted, Campus Resource Commitments make up 10% of your final grade. Campus Resource Commitments are in-person meetings held with important campus resources, including course TAs and other student-facing offices. This semester, there are three (3) commitments that you must complete by the noted dates on your syllabus. Two assignments will be completed with your CS 1200 Mentor Teaching Assistant (TA) and one will be completed with the OPEN (Office of Prevention and Education at Northeastern) team.

Teaching Assistant (TA) Meeting

During the semester, you will be required to connect with your mentor TA **once** for a one-on-one scheduled meeting. Your mentor TA will be assigned to you at the start of the semester.

The individual TA meeting is a space to connect 1:1 with your mentor TA. Your mentor TA will reach out and share a sign-up link to schedule the 1:1. Remember, your TA is a fellow Khoury student, so use this time to get more information about Khoury, Northeastern, and Boston as it relates to your goals and getting more acclimated to campus.

Attending a CS 1200 Mentor TA Workshop

During the semester, you will be required to attend at least one CS 1200 Mentor TA workshop. Workshops will be held over the course of the semester and will cover a variety of topics. You are able to attend as many as you would like, but you must attend one in its entirety for credit in this course.

Attending an In-Person Up2Us Bystander Intervention Session

Northeastern University is committed to creating and maintaining a community in which students, faculty, and staff can work and study in an atmosphere free from all forms of discrimination, harassment, and sexual violence. Northeastern offers specific education for new and incoming students as part of a larger commitment to sexual violence prevention. In addition to the required *Up2Us: Foundations* program you complete at the start of your Northeastern journey, all students will participate in an additional training called *Up2Us: Bystander Intervention* program through CS 1200. This program is an interactive, in-person 60-minute presentation led by peer educators. Topics covered in this program include:

- How to recognize warning signs of sexual violence
- Bystander intervention strategies
- Cultural factors that contribute to the perpetration of sexual violence

- Alcohol and consent
- Northeastern sexual violence resources
- How to support survivors of sexual violence

To earn credit towards this assignment, you must register and **attend a full session** on your selected date. Attendance will be taken towards the end of the event, so please sign up for a session you can attend in its entirety to fully engage with the program. If you leave the session early, you will need to attend another session and attend the full presentation to earn credit for the assignment.

How We Will Communicate

Canvas Course Announcements: We will use Canvas announcements to communicate any important or time-sensitive updates in the course. Please turn your announcement notifications on in your Canvas settings so you also receive announcements in email. This will help you keep on top of the course. You may also want to consider installing the Instructure Canvas Student Mobile app available in both Apple's [App Store](#) and Google's [Play Store](#).

Course Discussion Board: If you have any course questions that could pertain to others in the course, use our class Discussion Board in Canvas to connect with course staff. Course staff will check this board daily, but please note: it will be checked less frequently over the weekend. With this in mind, please allow 24 hours to receive a response and plan accordingly when working on coursework. You may also consult your mentor TA via email when appropriate.

Email: For matters that are not appropriate for the discussion board (a question about a grade on a particular module submission, etc.), we first ask that you email the TA that scored your particular submission. You are also welcome to email the course instructor at any point, as well. Important: Please include 'CS1200' in the subject of your email.

Academic Support

- Teaching Assistants (TAs)
 - Course Instructor and Course Coordinator
 - Your Academic Advisor
 - [We Care](#)
-

College and University Policies

Collaboration and Academic Integrity

As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their rights and responsibilities. In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, examinations of whatever kind, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Students are responsible for learning the conventions of documentation and acknowledgment of sources in their fields. Northeastern University expects students to complete all examinations, tests, papers, creative projects, and assignments of any kind according to the highest ethical standards, as set forth either explicitly or implicitly in this Code or by the direction of instructors. For more information, please see <http://www.northeastern.edu/osccr/academic-integrity-policy/>.

Your instructor reserves the right to require an in-person explanation/detailed description of anything you submit for this class. If you submit it, you **MUST** understand it well enough to explain it in person. We take this very seriously. Therefore, the penalty for any act of cheating or academic dishonesty will be a failing grade in the course and submission of the matter to OSCCR. Your instructor reserves the right to impose a less severe penalty at their sole discretion. Any penalties that OSCCR imposes will be separate from the course penalties.

Course Environment

Northeastern University values the diversity of our students, staff, and faculty, recognizing the important contribution each makes to our unique community.

Respect is demanded at all times throughout this course. At all times, it is expected that everyone is treated with dignity and respect. We realize everyone comes from a different background with different experiences and abilities. Our knowledge will always be used to better everyone in the class.

We strive to create a learning environment that is welcoming to students of all backgrounds. If you feel unwelcome for any reason, please let your instructor or a TA know so we can work to make things better. If you feel uncomfortable talking to members of the teaching staff, please consider reaching out to your academic advisor.

Northeastern is committed to providing equal access and support to all qualified students through the provision of reasonable accommodations so that each student may fully participate in the learning experience. If you have a disability that requires accommodations, please contact the Disability Access Services: <https://disabilityaccessservices.northeastern.edu/>, DASBoston@northeastern.edu, 617-353-2675.

Accommodations cannot be made retroactively; to receive an accommodation, a letter from the DAS or LDP is required.

Course Schedule

Instructor reserves the right to make changes and will communicate those as needed.

Course Week	Assignments Due Deadline: Sundays by 11:59pm EST unless otherwise noted
Week 1: September 3rd (WED) Course Logistics The College Transition	Discussion Post: Introduce Yourself!
Week 2: September 8th: Finding Opportunity through Resources and Involvement Involvement Safari Northeastern Resources	Discussion Post: Growing your Network
Week 3: September 15th: Academic Planning Your NU Degree and Academic Planning Resources	
Week 4: September 22nd: Academic Exploration Domains Trial	Discussion Post: Exploring your Academic Interests
Week 5: September 29th: Experiential Education in your First Year Experiential Education in your First Year	Discussion Post: Experiential Education Questions
Week 6: October 6th: Computers 101	Droplet Completion: How to Computer AND Internet Basics

How to Computer Internet Basics	
Week 7: October 13th : Languages and GitHub First Flight Version Control	Submission: Personal GitHub profile Submission: Personal GitHub Repo Droplet Completion: First Flight AND Version Control
Week 8: October 20th Academic Planning and Course Selection	
Week 9: October 27th Level 1 Droplets: You Pick 2 out of 3 to complete by November 9th	
Week 10: November 3rd Level 1 Droplets: You choose 2 out of 3 to complete by November 9th	Droplet Completion: "You Pick 2: Level 1" Droplets You must complete two!
Week 11: November 10th Level 2 Droplets: You choose 2 out of 5 to complete by November 23rd	
Week 12: November 17th Level 2 Droplets: You choose 2 out of 5 to complete by November 23rd	Droplet Completion: "You Pick 2: Level 2" Droplets You must complete two! Discussion Post: Khoury Odyssey Selections
Week 13: November 24th Fall Break Recap and Next Steps	
Week 14: December 1st	Final Discussion Post: Reflecting on your Khoury Network TA 1:1 meetings- completed by Friday, December 5th Due Sunday, December 7 th (last day of classes)