

# PIC 40A SECTION 1, JAN - MAR, 2021

This course is taught remotely. The course structure and grading practices are set up to allow students in all time zones to participate and earn full credit. However, all times and dates mentioned in this syllabus are based in Los Angeles – on Pacific Time.

Given the unique challenges of a remote course, this syllabus is subject to change at future times, including course structure, grading scheme, etc. An effort will be made to minimize such changes but they may be necessary to improve everyone's experience.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Michael Lindstrom (Mike)

**OFFICE HOURS:** Mon 17:00-17:50 (40A only) on Zoom  
Wed 14:00-14:50 (joint with 10B) on Zoom

**CONTACT INFO:** e: M I K E L [at] math [dot] ucla [dot] edu

**LECTURE TIME/LOCATION:** M/W/F 8:00-8:50 PT over Zoom in the Lectures section of CCLE  
*Recordings will be available on CCLE!*

**SECTION WEBSITE:** [www.math.ucla.edu/~mikel/teaching/pic40a](http://www.math.ucla.edu/~mikel/teaching/pic40a)

**CCLÉ:** <https://ccle.ucla.edu/>  
- for course notes, Zoom lectures, and CCLÉ discussion forums

**UPDATES:** Check your email and embedded twitter feed ([@mikel\\_ucla\\_math](https://twitter.com/mikel_ucla_math))

**TEXTBOOK:** None

**PREREQUISITES:** PIC 10A, CS 31, or equivalent; *and*  
one of PIC 10B, PIC 20A, PIC 16A, or CS 32, or equivalent

**TA:** Ki Jung Kim

**TUTORIALS:** T/R 8:00-8:50 over Zoom  
*Recordings will be available on CCLÉ!*

**TA CONTACT INFO:** e: K I J U N G [at] C S [dot] U C L A [dot] E D U

**TA OFFICE HOURS:** Tues 16:00-16:50  
Tues 17:00-17:50 (Joint with PIC 10B)

## **COURSE FORMAT AND BACKGROUND:**

The course is about programming for websites and will include aspects of markup languages, HTML5 and CSS3, to provide style; client- and server-side scripting languages for enhanced display, interactivity, and

data processing with JavaScript and PHP; and data management, with databases, using SQLite. There will be emphasis on both practical and theoretical knowledge of the languages and constructs.

**NOTES/LECTURE/DISCUSSION:** Unless otherwise specified, you are responsible for everything covered in the notes in addition to any material that comes up in lectures or discussion that might not be in the notes.

The lectures will generally follow the notes but may include more demonstrations and include less emphasis on more trivial definitions, syntax, etc. The discussions are there to reinforce concepts, go more in-depth into examples, and provide homework guidance.

**ZOOM LEARNING:** All lectures, discussions, and office hours will be held over Zoom and meeting links will be provided on CCLE. With this modality, there are some things for you to be aware of.

**Recording:** This class is being conducted over Zoom. Your instructors will be hosting the sessions. The lectures and discussions will be recorded. The recording feature for others is disabled so that no one else will be able to record the sessions through Zoom. No recording by other means is permitted. The sessions will be posted at the CCLE class website. If you have privacy concerns and do not wish to appear in the recording, do not turn on your video. If you also prefer to use a pseudonym instead of your name, please let your instructors know what name you will be using so we know who you are during the sessions. If you would like to ask a question, you may do so privately through the Zoom chat by addressing your chat question to your instructor only (and not to “everyone”). If you have questions or concerns about this, please contact your instructor.

Pursuant to the terms of the agreement between the vendor and UCLA, the data is used solely for this purpose and the vendor is prohibited from redisclosing this information. UCLA also does not use the data for any other purpose. Recordings will be deleted when no longer necessary. However, the recording may become part of an administrative disciplinary record if misconduct occurs during a videoconference.

**Further Remarks:**

- The office hours will not be recorded.
- You are strictly forbidden from recording any Zoom content: this includes recordings other than through Zoom, screen shots, recording chat dialogue, etc.
- To err on the safe side, one should assume that webcam input (if on), microphone input (if on), display name (whatever is chosen), profile picture, and chat history may be recorded.

**Zoom Etiquette:** Lectures, discussions, and office hours will take place over Zoom. Here is a list of basic etiquette all students should observe and be aware of:

- For all lectures, discussions and office hours, please mute your microphone unless you need to speak. If you don't do this, there will be background noise and distortions for everyone.
- For lectures and discussions, please post your questions in the chat or wait until your instructor pauses and asks if there are questions before speaking. Please do not interrupt your instructors or other students while they are speaking.
- Ensure that you have a working microphone: this will allow more interactivity by having conversations in class/discussion/office hours. There may also be opportunities for small group work and it would be nice if you could talk to each other, too.

- For office hours, assuming you are dressed properly and what the camera can view is not too personal, it would be nice for you to turn on your webcam. It may also be possible to have webcams on in lecture (do note the recording policy) but pay attention to announcements to turn off the webcams to reduce the quantity of data being transmitted and to improve video compression ratios.
- If you are comfortable with it, using your first name only or first name and last initial would be nice.
- Again, only if you are comfortable with it, having a profile picture for Zoom would be nice, but note it may be recorded.

**VIRTUAL LAB:** A number of virtual machines will be available to enrolled students. These virtual machines are accessible via a browser and present a Windows desktop with the programs that are required for the PIC courses. However, there is a limit to the number of simultaneous users, so, just as with physical machines, one may have to wait to have access. They will be available 24 hours/day.

Details for accessing the virtual machines will be made available at <https://www.pic.ucla.edu/>

**SUPPORT:** You are highly encouraged to form study groups, share notes, collaborate, etc. But you must do your own work and typing. Code plagiarism will be taken very seriously.

The purpose of office hours is primarily to discuss/clarify course concepts and for homework-related hints on how to approach a problem. Office hours are not designed as a time for the homework to be done or debugged for you.

#### **GRADING SCHEME:**

Your course percentage is computed based on:

- Homework [1] [2] [3] 75%
- Participation [4] – 20%
- Final Exam – 4%
- Max( Midterm, Final Exam) – 1%

**1:** There will be 7 homeworks assigned over the quarter. The lowest 2 will be dropped, unless one homework 2, 4, or 6 earns a score below 25%. In that case, only the one lowest score will be dropped. This applies to everyone without exception. Not submitting a homework and/or submitting late automatically results in 0% for that homework (but the score could be dropped). Beware that deadlines posted are in Pacific Time.

**2:** Over the entire quarter, each student will be allowed one and only one “mulligan” and a homework can be (re)submitted for grading. A mulligan applies only to the following three cases: (a) resubmitting a homework that failed to compile due to submitting files with the incorrect name and being regraded solely for code output, (b) resubmitting a homework that failed to behave correctly in the graded test case(s) and being regraded only for code output, or (c) submitting a homework late (excepting the final homework where late work will not be accepted). In all cases, the (re)submission must take place within 120 hours (exactly 5 days) of the homework grade release time (for cases a-b) or within 120 hours (exactly 5 days) of the original due date (for case c).

**3:** For each assignment on which academic dishonesty is determined (based on the Dean of Students assessment), the highest homework score will be dropped, the dishonest homework score will result in a grade of 0, without the possibility of being dropped. This is in addition to any penalty assigned by the university.

**4:** Earning 90% of points will amount to 100% here.

Letter grades will be assigned based on the overall course percentage earned without rounding. Below are rough guidelines to the letter grade brackets: earning overall percentages in the brackets below will ensure a letter grade at least as high as indicated. For instance, earning 89% ensures that the final letter grade will be at least a B+, possibly higher.

Overall Course Percentage	Minimum Letter Grade
100*	A
[95, 100)	A
[90, 95)	A-
[85, 90)	B+
[80, 85)	B
[75, 80)	B-
[70, 75)	C+
[65, 70)	C
[60, 65)	C-
[55, 60)	D+
[50, 55)	D
[45, 50)	D-
[0, 45)	F

\*: students who have 100% overall may be considered for an A+. This A+ may require completion of completing an additional assignment with excellence or passing an oral exam. But an A is guaranteed with 100%.

**Participation:** Periodically in lectures, you will be given mini-assignments to be submitted on CCLE.

To accommodate different time zones, you will have until the start of the next lecture/discussion to submit your responses at which point they will be discussed.

**Scoring:** each answer submitted is worth 1 point, provided an honest attempt was made. Full marks are earned for earning 90% of all points, i.e., if you respond to 93% problems (whether or not you are correct), you will earn 100% here. On the other hand, if you only respond to 60% of questions then you will earn  $60/90 = 66.7\%$ . This is really about participation and engaging in the material, and not a serious form of assessment!

**Homework:** There will be 7 homework assignments. In each homework, you will be required to produce a live webpage by a given deadline. You will be required to submit your homework files on CCLE, but the homework reader will grade your live website, so you have to make each website live and functional by the deadline.

Note that modifying a homework webpage after the deadline will result in a grade of 0, in addition to the case being reported as cheating.

In no way, shape, or form should you modify a homework file, no matter how small the change, after the deadline – not to fix a typo, or anything of the sort.

The assignments will be posted on CCLE.

Homeworks will be tested with either Firefox or Chrome web browsers, whichever gives you the better results. Each homework will be scored out of 20 points as below (refer to the **HW\_Codes** document for a list of required coding practices and techniques that are required for homework):

*Output (12 points):* the submission should perfectly match the description given in the homework.

- 0 ← output/display is far from desired, or violates homework specifications
- 4 ← some progress towards correct behavior/display/output
- 8 ← the behavior/display/output is a good step towards the correct output – the specifications are more or less met
- 10 ← the behavior/display/output is mostly correct, but not a perfect match to the desired output
- 12 ← the behavior/display/output is a perfect match to the requirements.

Other scores are not possible in the “Output” category

*Good coding practice, presentation, and readability (8 points):* presentation of code, robustness, etc.

Let  $G = \#$  of guidelines not followed

Score in this section =  $\text{Min}(\text{Output score}, 8) - G$

**Homework Feedback:** Your homework scores will be posted on myUCLA – not CCLE.

If you have made errors in coding style, you will see brief comment such as “P8” or “R7” to indicate “Practice Item 8” and “Readability Item 7”, etc. as in the HW\_Codes pdf.

**Mulligans:** to submit a mulligan, you should do so in the Mulligan section of CCLE. Please leave a comment as to what type of mulligan, i.e., “late submission”, “regrade output”, etc. You can submit a mulligan at most once all quarter so choose wisely when you use it!

After submitting a mulligan to CCLE, please fill in this Google form:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf\\_1sFZyMNDNVH0LQai1Vam5QQI8yIzq8aejKUnfidF5GrUQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf_1sFZyMNDNVH0LQai1Vam5QQI8yIzq8aejKUnfidF5GrUQ/viewform?usp=sf_link) (provide us the details so the HW can be (re)graded).

**Homework Collaboration Policy:** You must identify all collaborators on your assignments and you must do your own work!

Every homework requires the submission of an Honesty Statement. It should be submitted as a file Honesty.txt. Within the file, you must declare:

*I, [YOUR NAME], declare that this work is my own. I did this work honestly and can fully stand behind everything that I have written.*

*I did not copy code from anyone, student or otherwise.*

And, if a collaboration took place, also add:

*I collaborated with [NAMES OF COLLABORATORS] and I affirm that we all contributed equally in the code.*

Under no circumstances does the above declaration entitle you to copy the work of other students! You should also not allow your work to be copied by others as that will only hurt them on exams (and if you are caught, all parties involved may be subject to disciplinary action).

Not submitting Honesty.txt will result in an assignment grade of 0.

**Homework Username Info:** Every homework requires you to submit your PIC username in a ``User.txt`` file so that the Reader can find your websites.

**Midterm:** There will be a midterm on Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. You will have 24 hours to complete it: from Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 8am to Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 8am.

**Final Examination:** There will be a final exam taking place on Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. The exam will have two components that need to be done between March 17<sup>th</sup>, 8am and March 18<sup>th</sup>, 8am. There will be a short, ~15-minute, timed component and a more lengthy, written component with no timing.

#### **FORMAL POLICIES:**

**Explaining Your Work:** at any point in the course, you may be required to meet over Zoom to discuss work you have submitted (homework, participation, final exam). Being unable to properly explain your work will result in a grade of zero and possible investigation from the university! Refusing to attend the meeting will have the same consequences.

**Waitlists and PTEs:** All students on the waitlist will be admitted to the course when the waitlist period ends. No PTEs will be given out.

**Missing Work:** If the final exam is missed for a valid reason and your overall course percentage computed by excluding the final exam is strictly above 75%, you will be given an Incomplete to complete the course in a later quarter. University policy states that you cannot pass the course unless you take the final exam.

Valid reasons include one of the following: (a) prior notice of a valid, documented absence (e.g. out-of-town varsity athletic commitment), (b) notification to the instructor within one week due to a medical condition or (c) an emergency. All reasons require written documentation, for example a doctor's or counselor's note stating the student was medically/psychologically unfit to be in school, a copy of a death certificate, or a letter from a coach. A score of zero will otherwise be assigned.

Because one of the homeworks will likely be dropped and only 90% of participation points are required to earn 100%, no homework grades or participation scores will be excused, even for a valid, documented absence, even for students who register late. The purpose of dropping an assignment and some participation points is not leniency; the purpose is to account for unforeseen circumstances such as sickness, needing to travel, medical appointments, joining late, and the likes.

**Center for Accessible Education:** If you have a documented disability, please contact the Center for Accessible Education and have them consult with your instructor to ensure you are accommodated. It is your responsibility to do this in a timely manner. Special exam accommodations will not be provided by the instructor or TAs.

**Regrading:** To request a homework regrading, you must submit an email request to your TA within 5 business days of the homework grade release date (or within 24 hours in the case of the final homework). Your TA will be in charge of the homework regrades and your mark could stay the same, go up, or (in some cases) go down.

All marks are final after a regrade.

**Cheating:** If a student is suspected of cheating (on a test, assignment, etc.), the department will be notified immediately and severe academic disciplinary action may follow. This could include expulsion from the university!

Examples of cheating include:

- getting someone else (classmate, friend, tutor, online freelancer, etc.) to do one's homework/projects,
- copying from a past student's work,
- accessing prohibited materials on an exam,
- modifying a homework after its submission deadline,
- starting a test before the designated time or continuing to write when time is up,
- sharing exam responses,
- copying another student's homework verbatim (even if you change the variable names and reorder a few things, that's plagiarizing!),
- taking work from websites and presenting it as your own, and
- getting someone to respond to the participation problems on your behalf.

**Emails and Course Forums:** Homework-specific or conceptual questions should be posted on the online discussions at CCLE instead of an individual email to the instructor or TA. Generally emails will not receive a response.

Emails about anything that is answered in the syllabus, in class, or in course announcements will not receive a reply. Also note that some email clients seem to block email replies given from math.ucla.edu: yahoo is particularly bad for this.

**Instructor Discretion:** The final course marks may be shifted and scaled, and the instructor reserves the right to revise any mark. This syllabus is also subject to change.

#### **GENERAL:**

**Discussion sections:** The discussions are extremely important! The lectures serve to introduce topics, ideas, and build motivation; in the discussions, you will get vital practice and review.

**Participation:** You are encouraged to get involved in the material, to answer questions in class and on the forums, and to ask questions when you're unclear of what's going on. Don't be afraid to ask questions!

**Succeeding:** There is no rule that anyone has to fail! There is absolutely no reason you cannot excel in this course if you work for it!

#### **SUCCESS TIPS:**

- Attend class or watch the videos. Hearing information live, doing problems, and being able to ask your own questions is important and correlates strongly with exam performance.
- Attend your discussion sections. Lecture time is very limited: there is reason why 2 hours per week are scheduled for this course outside of lectures.
- Do not get behind: once there is a topic you are weak with, it could very well prevent your understanding subsequent topics. The material does build.
- Beware the “familiarity fallacy”: just because you've seen a topic before, doesn't mean that you have mastered it.
- Make use of office hours and CLE discussions.
- Don't be afraid to speak with your instructor or TA: you are not just a number!