CORNELL TECH | HOME OF THE JACOBS TECHNION-CORNELL INSTITUTE

COURSE PREFIX & COURSE NUMBER: TECHIE 5356

Spring 2026

Instructor: Dr. William J Leon

Meeting Time(s) and Location(s): MoWe 5:55PM - 7:10PM**,** Bloomberg Center 131

Credits and Grading: 3 credits, Letter grade only

Course Description:

In this course we will engage in the art and science of orchestrating modern software systems, positioning students as producers rather than just coders. Participants will learn to define product scope, translate high-level vision into rapid, iterative deliverables, and manage the full lifecycle of a technology “production” by leveraging contemporary developer ecosystems, cloud services, and data pipelines. Through a blend of lectures and working sessions, students will explore the architectural, operational, and collaborative parts of building technology systems that meet real-world application needs. By the end of the term, each student will have produced several tangible software artifacts demonstrating familiarity with both the technical and managerial aspects of modern and emerging technology production. This course is geared for Jacobs students and Cornell Tech students without a technical background.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes (3 minimum required):

- Plan and predict the scope and requirements of common technologies
- Familiarize and develop skills using various technologies
- Evaluate model effectiveness and communicate concepts

Course Frequency: Offered every Spring term

Textbook(s) and/or Other Required Materials: Computer

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

Staff/Teaching Assistants:

- Bo Liu, bl685
- Alexandra Bremers, awb227
- Kyuseong Choi, kc728

Office Hours:

Course Website link: https://canvas.cornell.edu/courses/85511

Weekly Schedule Topic:
Below you can specifically outline meeting to meeting topics and specific readings needed to achieve for that lecture. These refer to the main subjects and themes that will be explored. Examples might include key concepts, theories, practices, and case studies relevant to the course's focus area.

Weeks	Date	Topic
1-4	Jan 21 - Feb 11	Lumped Model Abstraction and Distributed Systems
6-8	Feb 23 - Mar 11	Computer Graphics and Multimedia
9-12	Mar 16 - Apr 8	Servers and Cloud services
13-15	Apr 13 - Apr 29	Environments and Engines

Assignments, Exams and Projects:
Please provide a detailed overview of projects, assignments, and other deliverables due for your class. Include percentages of how much each item allocates for the overall final class course grade.

Activity	Overview	Point Values
Weekly Quizzes	Every Wednesday	10 points
Weekly Working Sessions	Every Wednesday	10 points

Method of Assessing Student Achievement:

Component	**Grade Percentage**
Attendance	30%
Quizzes	30%
Working Sessions	40%

Grading:

The University Grading scale can be found here

Grade	GPA
A+	4.3
A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D+	1.3
D	1.0
D-	0.7
F	0.0

Academic Integrity

All students should abide by the Cornell University Code of Academic Integrity, and all writing submitted should be one's own writing. While discussing course concepts with other students is highly encouraged, plagiarism (including use of ChatGPT) will result in zero credit and/or a referral to the Office of Student & Academic Affairs. Please reach out if additional questions arise on what is or is not permitted.

AI Course Policy

Usage of all forms of AI are allowed, encouraged, and expected.

Technology/Electronics Policy

Laptops and phones must be out and open during class unless specifically requested. This is a strict policy- in a technology class you need to be an active participant.

Academic Freedom and Building Trust in the Classroom

Each person in this class is expected to respect the principles of academic freedom for instructors and classmates and will maintain the privacy of the classroom environment.

This commitment to building respect and trust in the classroom means members of this class will not: record, photograph, or share online any interactions that involve classmates or any member of the teaching team. Students will also respect the intellectual property rights of the instructor, and will not share or otherwise make accessible any course materials to anyone not enrolled in the course, without the instructor's written permission.

This policy is not meant to restrict students' ability to use classroom recordings in ways beneficial to their learning. Students who may benefit from recorded lectures and lecture playback, including students who use English as an additional language or who have accommodations from SDS, should speak to the course instructor to maintain transparency and trust in the classroom. Students approved to record lectures are expected to maintain the respect and privacy of the learning environment, as stated above.

Students will also not enable anyone not enrolled in the course to participate in any activity that is associated with the course.

Exceptions to this require the instructor's written permission.

Academic Misconduct

A faculty member may impose a grade penalty for any misconduct in the classroom or examination room. Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to, talking during an exam, bringing unauthorized materials into the exam room, and disruptive behavior in the classroom.

Attendance and Absences

Attendance is mandatory

Students with Disabilities

Your access in this course is important to us. Please give us your Student Disability Services (SDS) accommodation letter early in the semester so that we have adequate time to arrange your approved academic accommodations. If you need immediate accommodations for equal access, please speak with us after class or send an email

message to us and/or SDS at sds_cu@cornell.edu. If the need arises for additional accommodations during the semester, please contact SDS. You may also feel free to speak with the Student & Academic Affairs team at Cornell Tech who will connect you with the university SDS office. If you have, or think you may have a disability, please contact Student Disability Services for a confidential discussion: sds_cu@cornell.edu, 607-254-4545, sds.cornell.edu. **You must request your SDS accommodation letter no later than 3 weeks prior to needing it.**

- Students currently registered with SDS: Once you request your accommodation letter and it is approved by SDS, it will be emailed to both you and your instructors. Processing time can be up to 48-hours.
- Students not registered with SDS: The registration process for new accommodations can take up to three weeks. Once you are approved by SDS for accommodations, you will be able to request your accommodation letter for this course.
- If you are approved for accommodations later in the semester: you must request your accommodation letter as soon as possible.

Mental Health & Well-being

Your health and wellbeing are important to us, and you should always feel free to reach out to us for support. There are services and resources at Cornell designed specifically to bolster student mental health and well-being. Remember, your mental health and emotional well-being are just as important as your physical health. If you or a friend are struggling emotionally or feeling stressed, fatigued, or burned out, there are many campus resources available to you:

Cornell Tech students: This link provides a list of resources for Cornell Tech students: https://mentalhealth.cornell.edu/get-support/tech. You can additionally also contact studentwellness@tech.cornell.edu with concerns.

Religious Observances

Cornell University is committed to supporting students who wish to practice their religious beliefs. Students are advised to discuss religious absences with their instructors well in advance of the religious holiday so that arrangements for making up work can be resolved before the absence.Students are encouraged to anticipate their religious/spiritual needs early in the semester, and at least two weeks before the observance, leaving plenty of time for the professor and student to reach a reasonable accommodation.