

**Instructor:** Professor Christelle Scharff  
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 New York, NY  
**Email:** cscharff@pace.edu  
**Class time:** Tu 2:30-3:25pm - Th 2:30-4:30pm  
**Classroom:** W526  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday: 10:30 am to 11:00 am and  
 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm  
 Thursday: 10 am to 11 am and  
 4:40 pm to 5:40 pm

**Note:** Due to the terrible events of September 11, the syllabus changed. This syllabus replaces the previous one. This syllabus will be distributed in class and everything will be also announced in class.

**Textbook:** *Database system concepts (4th edition)*, Silberschatz, Korth, Sudarshan, McGraw Hill Higher education, ISBN 0072283637.

### General Information:

CS 387 prepares you to face the real world of databases application and internals development.

It presents the fundamental concepts of database management. It provides a study of data models, data normalization; data description languages and their design and form, query facilities including relational algebra, relation calculus, and query functions.

It will focus on the SQL query language.

*Prerequisite:* CS 232 - CS 242.

### The Following CS 387 Policies are Strictly Enforced

**Assignments:** See <http://www.csis.pace.edu/~scharff/cs387> and “Guidelines for All assignments”. It is your responsibility to consult the web regularly for assignments.

**Examinations:** There will be one quizz and two examinations.

### Important Dates:

Quizz 1:	Tuesday, Oct 23	2:30 - 3:00pm
Exam 1:	Thursday, Nov 29	2:30pm - 4:30pm
Exam 2:	Thursday, Dec 20	2:30pm - 4:30pm

Students must receive passing grades on the combined average of the quizz and the exams in order to pass the course. That is, a passing grade will not be awarded only on the basis of outstanding homeworks.

Quizz and exams cover material from the lectures, homeworks and textbook.

**Course Grades:** Your overall course average for CS 387 will be computed using the following category weights:

The weights may change slightly.

Grades are computed the following way:

A  
A-  
B+  
B  
B-  
C+  
C  
C-  
D+  
D  
F

**Academic Dishonesty:** You are encouraged to help your fellow students with one another. However, each student is responsible for his/her own solution on his/her own. All students submitting assignments will receive a grade of zero and academic dishonesty is punished. Those found to be cheating will be brought up on charges of academic dishonesty (see the regulations regarding academic dishonesty).

**Course Handouts and Lecture Slides:** Handouts and lecture slides will be distributed in class. They will be available on the WWW (<http://www.csis.pace.edu/~scharff/cs387>). It is your responsibility to consult the WWW. It is your responsibility to consult the WWW.

**Comments:** All of the above regulations were in effect during the Fall 2001 semester and they will continue to be in effect.

## Survival Hints

1. Organize your time wisely by making a work schedule, and stick to it. Plan to devote at least 8 hours per week to CS 387.
2. Good notes are essential. Take notes in lecture, but don't simply copy the slides. Listen to your instructor; record key concepts and note questions you may have. Later get copies of the slides. Create a final set of study notes from the slides and your lecture notes. Identify potential exam questions, and make a separate list of key terms and concepts.
3. Keep all work and handouts organized in a file or notebook.
4. Faithfully attend classes. Actively participate in class discussions by answering questions and asking questions. This is a good way to get your mind moving.
5. Read over each assignment the day you get it. Spend some time each day on the assignment. If you don't understand a problem, or are not sure how to proceed, write down questions and ask them. Frequently, just formulating these questions stimulates your mind. When you get too wound up in a problem, put it aside for awhile and do something else.
6. Make effective use of consulting hours and the instructors office hours. They are available to answer your questions relating to all course material: reading, homework and lab assignments, lecture, and exams.
7. Work with other students. Join a study group, or work with a small group of fellow CS 387 students.
8. Always keep up with the reading. Skim the reading material first, then read to understand the key concepts. Re-read again to pick up the details and reinforce the key concepts. Use a highlight pen to mark key passages (don't mark everything). Have paper and pencil handy to list questions and work through examples as you read.
9. Learn how to study.
10. A good way to study for an exam is to work through the problems on last semester's exam.
11. The best way to study is to faithfully attempt all assigned work. For concepts you have trouble understanding, seek help.
12. Learn now to take exams. Get a good night's sleep before an examination.
13. Seek advice when you have academic or personal problems. Don't wait until it is too late. Talk to your instructor, or an advisor.