Hi LabVIEW students!

The course homepage is here: https://www.geneseo.edu/~pogo/LabVIEW/LabVIEW.htm
You'll want to bookmark this page, so you don't have to go through the rigmarole of navigating Brightspace. You'll use this site EVERY day in class.

Books
There is no required book for this class. But if you get an optional book (see website), you should get a paper one, not an electronic one, because you'll want your full screen space reserved for the LabVIEW environment. See: https://www.geneseo.edu/~pogo/pogobooks.html

Grading
You are required to physically attend class for each scheduled class day. Your grade will be calculated in one of two ways, as listed on the syllabus at the above web site. You choose which version you want; by default, you are currently in the "homework only" grading mode.
The percentages vary, but your grade is based on:

1. 7 homework assignments of mostly increasing point value.
2. 5 in-class assignments, to be completed in 75 minutes by two-person teams.
3. Either:
    a. 3 more homework assignments (8, 9, 10), of which two are fairly hard, or
    b. A final project of your own design having 7 graded milestones.

The "additional" assignments (8 through 10) cover concepts that appear on many final projects, and are neither easier nor harder than doing a final project. They are comparable in difficulty to the harder assignments from the earlier parts of the semester (like #4 or #6). Hopefully, by that point in the semester, the things that make those assignments harder for most students will be resolved in your head already anyway! Specifically, the hardest assignments (#4, #6, #8, and #10) all become much, much easier if you can teach yourself to post-pone all *coding* until after you've spent some time *thinking about the big picture* (and the ordering of the little steps) of each assignment.

Your Computer
You'll probably mostly use one of the computers in ISC 226, which are all "windows". There is at least one default setting you need to fix on it, and you also need to fix this on your own laptop RIGHT NOW (if not ten years ago). Open a folder. Use the upper "View" menu (NOT the right-click view menu). Then "Show/Hide", then put a check next to "file name extensions". Otherwise, you're demanding that your computer lie to you about stuff that will matter later this semester (and the rest of your life!).

A second issue on your computer that hurts you every day without you even knowing it is the "downloads" folder. You'll be downloading stuff every class, but you should NEVER use the "downloads" folder. Instead, create your own "LabVIEW" folder to place course related downloads. Within that folder, create subfolders for your own work (like "Assign1", etc.). You are no longer a first grader… creating your own folder structure is one of the marks of scientific adulthood.

Software
This class uses "LabVIEW", a programming environment created by National Instruments. LabVIEW is supposed to be installed on each of the 14 computers in ISC 226. However, CIT hasn't been able to do that yet this summer. Hopefully, that will be ready when the semester starts!

Also, CIT will supposedly also purchase a license for current students to get a student edition of LabVIEW 2024 for "free" on your laptop. This link is last year's link, and CIT hasn't yet figured out anything about how (or whether) this will happen again this year:

https://www.ni.com/en-us/support/downloads/software-products/download.labview-student-software-suite.html#352831

After installing the software and launching LabVIEW, you will be asked to *login*, or *start a 7 day trial*. Choose *login,* then create an NI account as prompted.
Once logged in, you should be prompted to enter a serial number. Last year's number was **M86X08742**, but I expect it to change this semester… CIT has not yet told me the new number. Try sending a message to "helpdesk" during the first week of the semester.

You may not share this serial number with others. Your student edition license should last through May. Even if it happens, this installation doesn't usually work for Apple users, and generally speaking, CIT's solution to this problem has been "don't use an Apple". But at least one student has reported success at installing LabVIEW on their Apple computer using the Windows Emulator "Bootcamp".

Office hours
Office hours times are listed at the tippy top of the syllabus. Here's a graphical summary:
https://www.geneseo.edu/~pogo/Schedule/Schedule.htm

Office hours will use Discord, and my office hours time will be shared across all my classes using this "server": https://discord.gg/GjkWREU. Office hours are primarily audio, and operate on a "first-come, first served" basis. However, each student may only ask one question in turns if other students are also waiting patiently. Discord should be pre-installed on the computers in ISC 226.

It turns out that Discord is GREAT for LabVIEW, since screen sharing with the snipping tool is so easy. Use a snipping tool to make a screen shot of your code, then use CTRL-V in Discord to paste it in where we can both see what you've done so far.

You should practice using Discord *before the semester begins*, especially the audio capabilities. Also, practice with making reasonable screen snips (i.e., not grabbing your entire screen), and with quickly imaging your own paper/handwritten work.

Discord will allow you to speak, listen, post screen captures or other electronic images, post text, and share your screen "live". Whereas with Zoom, the main concept is seeing everyone's faces, the main focus of Discord is seeing actual content. As a result, Discord is also much more bandwidth-friendly than Zoom is. If you're like me, with poor-to-none home internet access, an hour long Zoom meeting uses my entire bandwidth allocation for a month.

Course PIN Numbers
Want to see occasional anonymous info about your grade and course status? Then fill out a PIN request: https://forms.gle/8he5uouzkMUdtRZd7

Letters of Recommendation

Unless you plan on being abducted by aliens before you graduate, you'll need a plan for your future. Most such plans require that other people vouch for you, and are willing to say that you're worth taking a risk on. However, most students don't understand that grades have nothing to do with that process. Instead, letters are about your character… whether you are honest, engaged, self-motivated, and so on. Do you want to see what you need to do *now* to get ready for that? Read this: https://www.geneseo.edu/~pogo/Recommendations.pdf

Good luck this semester!

Dr. Pogo