University of Colorado
Department of Computer Science

Research Onramp
Spring 2026

General Information

Catalog Number: CSCI 4830-800

Time/Place: Wednesdays from 9:05-9:55am in ECES 114

Webpage: `www.cs.colorado.edu/∼lizb/onramp.html`
(Note that this is **not** the standard Canvas course page!)

Instructor: Liz Bradley ECOT 747
`lizb@cs.colorado.edu` 303-492-5355

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30-2:30pm in person (ECOT 747), Fridays 2:30-3:30pm by zoom at `https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/98731549841`, and at other times by appointment; please email me to set up a time. *It's a good idea to check my webpage before you stop by in case a conflict has come up with one of the regular times.*

Description: Undergraduate research is a great complement to classroom education at a university like CU. It's fun and rewarding, it connects you with faculty and grad students in substantive, meaningful ways, and you can push the frontiers of knowledge. Over the course of the semester, we will explore the different ways to get plugged into research projects, which range from independent studies to paid summer research internships and senior thesis. Topics that to be covered include choosing a problem, finding a faculty advisor, obtaining funding for your work, presenting your results, etc.

Assignments, workload, and expectations: This is a small class that will involve a lot of thought, exploration, and discussion. The workload will not be heavy, nor will there be midterms or finals. There **will** be weekly assignments that will require a couple of hours of time, thought, and effort. These will be graded very coarsely, probably on a three-point scale (three if it's perfect, two if you give it a good go but it's lacking, one if you really could have done a lot better, and zero if you don't turn it in).

Grades: will be based on assignments (60%) and class participation (40%).

Syllabus:

1. What is research, anyway?

2. Figuring out where your interests lie

3. Sussing out the landscape

4. Choosing your specific problem

5. Finding an advisor

6. Programs that support undergrad research

7. Carrying out the work

8. Communicating about your work

9. Next steps: internships, thesis, grad school, ...

Accomodations and other policies...

Both students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote or online. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. For more information, see the policies on classroom behavior (in a footnote to avoid breaking the margins)[1], the Student Code of Conduct (`www.colorado.edu/osccr`), and the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (`www.colorado.edu/oiec/`.)

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to me in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the Disability Services website. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or `dsinfo@colorado.edu` for further assistance.

If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, please email me before the next class, if possible, but at least within 24 hours, so that I can make arrangements to work around the situation (e.g., special zoom office hours, someone to take notes for you, etc.) *You do not need to document this with any kind of doctor's note; what's important here is that we all take care of each other.* The "Temporary Medical Conditions" guidelines under the Students tab on the Disability Services website may also be useful in these situations.

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I can make appropriate changes to my own records.

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code academic integrity policy. Violations of the Honor Code may include but are not limited to: plagiarism (including use of paper writing services or technology [such as essay bots]), cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. Understanding the course's syllabus is a vital part in adhering to the Honor Code. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code (`honor@colorado.edu`); 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the Honor Code Office website.

CU Boulder is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. University policy prohibits protected-class discrimination and harassment, sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking, and related retaliation by or against members of our community on- and off-campus. The Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) addresses these concerns, and individuals who have been subjected to misconduct can contact OIEC at 303-492-2127 or

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[1] `www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-and-course-related-behavior`

email CUreport@colorado.edu. Information about university policies, reporting options, and OIEC support resources including confidential services can be found on the OIEC website.

Please know that faculty and graduate instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when they are made aware of any issues related to these policies, regardless of when or where they occurred, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about their rights, support resources, and resolution options. To learn more about reporting and support options for a variety of concerns, visit `www.colorado.edu/dontignoreit`.

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. If you have religious obligations that will cause logistical issues in this class (e.g., with turning in an assignment or attending a lecture), please let me know at least two weeks in advance so that we can work out alternatives.

The University of Colorado Boulder is committed to the well-being of all students. If you are struggling with personal stressors, mental health or substance use concerns that are impacting academic or daily life, please contact Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) located in C4C or call (303) 492-2277, 24/7. Free and unlimited telehealth is also available through Academic Live Care. The Academic Live Care site also provides information about additional wellness services on campus that are available to students.

Generative artificial intelligence tools—software that (re)produces text, images, computer code, audio, video, and other content—have become widely available. Well-known examples include ChatGPT for text and DALL-E for images. This statement governs all such tools, including those released during our semester together. Keep in mind that the goal of gen AI tools is to reproduce content that seems to have been produced by a human, not to produce accurate or reliable content; therefore, relying on a gen AI tool may result in your submission of inaccurate content. It is your responsibility—not the tool's—to assure the quality, integrity, and accuracy of work you submit in any college course. If gen AI tool use is suspected in completing assignments for this course in ways not explicitly authorized, I will follow up with you. I may contact the Office of Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution to report suspected Honor Code violations. In addition, you must be wary of unintentional plagiarism or data fabrication. Please act with integrity, for the sake of both your personal character and your academic record.

I really want to create a learning environment for my students that supports a diversity of thought, perspectives, and experiences, and honors your identities (race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, ...) As a participant in this class, you should strive to honor the diversity of your classmates. And if something was said in class—by anyone—that made you feel uncomfortable, please talk to me about it. Anonymous feedback is always an option; just slip a printout under my office door.