IGME-340 Course Syllabus

Multi-platform Media App Development - Fall 2025 (2251)

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You may also book virtual Zoom hours there.
Logistics: Meets in: GOL 2435.
Tue & Thu 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM.

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Syllabus as Course Agreement

This syllabus serves as a contract between instructor and students. By remaining enrolled in this course, you acknowledge that you have read, understood, and agree to abide by all policies outlined in this document, including those regarding attendance, deadlines, late work, and academic integrity.

Your continued enrollment indicates acceptance of:

- All grading policies and assessment weights
- Assignment deadlines and late work penalties
- Course communication expectations
- Academic integrity standards

Syllabus Modifications: While this document represents the planned structure of the course, I reserve the right to make adjustments as needed to enhance learning outcomes or address unforeseen circumstances. Any changes will be communicated via official RIT email

Course Catalog Description

Interactive media applications are no longer restricted to personal computers. They can now be found on many distinct hardware platforms including mobile, tablet, wearable, and large-screened computing devices. In this course, students will learn to design, prototype and develop media rich interactive experiences that can be deployed to a wide variety of hardware devices. Programming projects are required.

Prerequisites

Officially: IGME-330 or equivalent course and student standing in GAMEDES-BS or NWMEDID-BS.
The course is a higher-level programming course, it is expected that you will have familiarity programming in languages such as Java, C# or JavaScript.

If you are unfamiliar with basic programming, you'll be expected to quickly and deeply engage the material in the beginning weeks through our provided references, notes and resources to get where you need to be.

Lastly, this course involves a significant amount of coding in the Dart language, you should also feel confident in your programming skills in whatever other languages you know.

Important RIT Dates & Deadlines (Fall 2025)

August 25, 2025 (Monday)	Day, evening, and online classes begin
September 2 (Tuesday)	Last day of Add/Drop period
October 13-14	Fall Break - No Classes
November 7 (Friday)	Last day to drop from classes with a grade of "W"
November 26	No classes - University closes at 2 p.m.
November 27-28	Thanksgiving Holiday - University closed
December 8 (Monday)	Last day, evening, and online classes
December 9 (Tuesday)	Reading Day
Dec. 10,11,12,15,16,17	Exam Period (see section below)

Final Exam Week

During the Final Exam period (Dec. 10,11,12,15,16,17) there will likely be a scheduled activity either in person or on zoom. We will talk about this in class as the semester progresses. Our scheduled time is 12/16/2025, Tuesday 10:45AM - 1:15PM

Required Textbook

There is no required textbook for this course. All learning materials, including lecture presentations, code examples, and external resources, will be provided through our course platforms.

Learning Management Systems

- MyCourses: Primary hub for announcements, grades, and course content
- GitHub: Code distribution and version control
- Assignment Submission: [To be finalized by end of Week 1 - either MyCourses or GitHub Classroom]

Communication

MyCourses

MyCourses serves as our official communication platform. While it may not be the most modern interface you're accustomed to, it provides essential accountability and documentation required

by university policies.

To ensure you don't miss important information:

- **Enable notifications**: Set up email/push notifications for announcements and deadlines
- **Check regularly**: All official announcements, grade updates, and deadline changes will be posted here

Key MyCourses Areas

Content → Weekly Folders: Each week has its own folder (Week 1, Week 2, etc.) containing:

- Weekly overview and objectives
- Links to all materials and resources
- Clear expectations for the week

Announcements Feed (on course homepage): Important updates that don't require email

- Check regularly for course adjustments and reminders
- Enable push notifications to stay current
- Essential for this agile course with limited in-person time

Calendar (Desktop Sidebar): Your single source of truth for ALL deadlines

- Shows all due dates including participation activities
- More comprehensive than "Upcoming Work" widget
- Check weekly to stay on track
  More Info: The Calendar feature (found in the desktop sidebar) shows ALL course deadlines, including participation activities and non-traditional submissions. Avoid relying on the "Upcoming Work" widget, which only displays certain assignment types. I maintain all deadlines in the Calendar to give you a complete view of what's due when.

Remember: "I didn't see it on MyCourses" won't be accepted as an excuse for missed deadlines or announcements.

Slack Workspace

For peer support, quick questions, and community discussion

- Great for troubleshooting and collaboration
- Great for finding out what you missed due to excused absence
- Be careful though not to share solutions or code as this could constitute academic dishonesty

[Slack invitation link will be provided in Week 1]

Email Communication

Emailing Me

When emailing me, please follow these guidelines:

- **Subject Line Format**: `IGME-340 - [Your Subject]`
- **Use RIT Email**: Always email from your official RIT address
- **Be Specific**: Provide detailed context about your question or issue
- **Technical/Code Issues**: Email is not ideal for debugging. Please attend office hours for code help, as I cannot stay after class this semester due to back-to-back teaching schedule

Course Emails from Me

I will use mass emails for urgent updates and important changes. While I'll TRY to cross-post to Slack and MyCourses when possible, **email remains the official channel** for:

- Assignment deadline changes or extensions
- Critical course updates
- Time-sensitive information

Important: Check your email regularly, especially near due dates. As this is an agile course in a rapidly-evolving field, I may need to make adjustments throughout the semester to keep content current and relevant. I strive to balance structure with flexibility to give you the best learning experience.

Note: While last-minute changes can be frustrating, they're sometimes necessary to ensure fairness or incorporate emerging technologies.

Equipment Requirements

Hardware

- **Computer**: Windows or Mac capable of running Flutter development tools
- **Platform Note**: While Flutter supports both iOS and Android development, iOS apps require a Mac for building and testing. To ensure all students can fully participate regardless of their computer, **this course will focus primarily on Android development**, which works on both Windows and Mac.
- **Mobile Device** (Optional): Android device for testing on real hardware
- **Developer Licenses** (Not Required): No paid developer accounts needed

Software

- Development environment setup instructions will be provided in Week 1
- All required software is free for educational use

Attendance & On-time Arrival

Attendance is mandatory. Lectures will start promptly at the beginning of class, and may be followed by an in-class assignment or exercise that you are expected to work on until the end of the meeting (i.e. not leaving early, or doing HW for a different course).

In recent semesters the number of late arrivals has become problematic and disruptive. Excessive late arrivals and absences will be penalized in the metric “Weekly Participation & In Class Activities 10%”. You may read more about that in the grading section below.

Grading & Assessment

Course Element	Weight
Projects	75%
Participation and In-class Activities	5%
Labs/Homework	20%

Adjusted 9/29/25 for removal of exams

Grade Scale*

Class Average	Grade
90%+	A
80%+	B
70%+	C
65%+	D
<65%	F

*IGM generally assigns ‘flat’ grades A,B,C as opposed to B-, C+ etc. Although other RIT departments may assign in-between grades; I am now in IGM and plan on adhering to this department practice. In rare circumstances I reserve the right to assign + or - grades. Doing extra credit, showing up for office hours and excellent participation may help sway the decision.

Late Project & Homework Policy

Except in documented extenuating circumstances, assignments completed or turned in after their due date will not be accepted for credit without PRIOR approval. If you are having problems with an assignment or have an emergency that may make you late in submitting your work, contact your instructor as soon as possible as I realize things come up; it is just important we discuss this in advance and not day work is due.

Policy on Incomplete Grades

Incomplete grades will be given only in the most exceptional circumstances, solely for issues that arise AFTER the 'W' deadline has passed, and then only by prior arrangement with the professor. Being overcommitted and/or not having enough time to complete your coursework is not sufficient justification for an "I". Instead, meet with the professor as early as possible in the semester if you're having difficulty.

Course Elements Explored

This course is designed with intentional pacing. The first 4-5 weeks focus on foundational skills through structured homework assignments. Once you have these building blocks, we shift to project-based learning where you'll apply everything in larger, creative applications. This front-loaded approach ensures you have the tools needed before diving into complex projects.

Projects (75% of Grade)

There are 3 major projects to be completed in the semester. One is started at the end of the first half of the semester (and completed at the very end), the other two at or near the end of the semester.

- Project 1 (TBD %) - Design to Spec
- Project 2 (TBD %) - Web Service Application
- Project 3 (TBD %) - Roll Your Own Project

Project Grading: Grades for your projects are determined based upon published rubrics that explain exactly how your projects will be assessed.

Project Submission: Your projects will be submitted in phases, in some cases you'll start with a proposal, and then a prototype with some functionality and a rough design will be submitted (this will be used for group critiques and feedback), and the final submission of the project will be a few days after the feedback process. They will need to be posted online and linked to from your course "home page" (created earlier in the semester)

Weekly Participation & In Class Activities (5% of Grade)

- In-class creative activities (attendance proxy)
- Pass/fail basis
- Mix of:
    - Framework selection exercise
    - Periodic Attendance check pass/fail quizzes

~~Technical Assessments (10%)~~

- ~~Midterm (5%) - Week 7/8~~

    - ~~In-class conceptual + small practical~~
    - ~~Architecture decisions, debugging scenarios~~
- ~~Final (5%) - Exam Week (or possibly last class TBD)~~
    - ~~Similar format, cumulative~~

Note: Exams were removed per class vote and due to complexity of projects. The weighting of projects did not change drastically (70% to 75%)

Labs/Homework (20%)
(NOTE: adjusted due to removal of exams; one homework added)

Approximately 5-6 structured assignments designed to build foundational skills in Dart and Flutter. These assignments are **strategically front-loaded** in the first half of the semester to prepare you for project work.

What to Expect:

- Time commitment: 1-2 hours per assignment
- Focus areas: Dart fundamentals, Flutter widgets, layouts, and basic state management
- Submission: Due before the next class meeting (typically 2-3 days)
- Grading: Full credit for good-faith completion and effort

Schedule Note: Most homework occurs in Weeks 1-6, with minimal assignments during heavy project periods. This intentional pacing ensures you build skills early without competing priorities later in the semester.

These assignments directly support upcoming projects - they're skill-builders, not busywork.

How This Course Flows

- **Weeks 1-5**: Skill Building Phase
    - Regular homework assignments
    - Learning Dart & Flutter fundamentals
    - Building your toolkit
- **Weeks 6-14**: Project Phase
    - Apply your skills to real projects
    - Minimal homework (only bridge assignments)
    - Focus on creative problem-solving

Academic Integrity

As part of the RIT academic community, it is imperative that you maintain the highest standards of academic honesty in this course. This policy outlines our commitment to uphold academic integrity and the consequences of violating it.

- Cheating: Engaging in any form of fraudulent or deceptive academic act, including falsification of data and unauthorized possession or use of materials, sources, or tools. See also our Generative AI policy (next section).
- Collusion: Inappropriate collaboration with others in work that is meant to be completed individually.
- Plagiarism: Representing the ideas of others as your own without proper attribution.
- Duplicate Submission: Submitting work in this course that you have previously submitted in this course or another, without prior approval. Importantly, if you have previously taken this course and are retaking it (whether due to a withdrawal or to improve a grade), all submitted work must be original and created anew for this semester. Resubmitting past work, even your own, without explicit permission is not allowed and will be treated as a breach of academic integrity.

Consequences: Breaches of academic integrity, including but not limited to cheating, collusion, plagiarism, and duplicate submission, will result in serious disciplinary action. This may range from failing the assignment to potentially failing the course, depending on the violation's severity. Each case will be carefully reviewed in accordance with the RIT Academic Integrity Policy.

For full details on the policy and your responsibilities within it, please visit RIT's Academic Integrity website. https://www.rit.edu/academicintegrity/

Generative AI (e.g., ChatGPT)

Coding solutions must be your own work, which means you cannot use generative AI tools in any manner to write your programs for you. Doing so would count as Cheating above. When learning fundamental skills, you need to ensure that you master the basics. If we doubt authorship, we may ask you to explain the code or re-create aspects of the code in one of our labs – you must show that you have mastered the fundamentals.

We'll occasionally work with some of those tools so that you can learn to use them effectively. In general, however, before resorting to the use of AI to create content submitted in this class you should communicate with your instructor. If and when you do use AI assistance, you should explicitly acknowledge so and describe how and to what extent AI was utilized in your documentation.

Additional Important Notes

Statement of Teaching Philosophy

My goal is to spark your curiosity and excitement about multiplatform development rather than serve as an encyclopedia of information. I bring a unique perspective from years in industry

combined with teaching experience, which I hope provides valuable real-world context to our coursework.

As this is my first semester teaching full-time in IGM, I'm learning alongside you. I genuinely welcome your feedback throughout the semester; whether it's about speaking volume, organization, pacing, or anything else that affects your learning. Please share concerns with me directly rather than waiting for end-of-semester evaluations if you feel comfortable, as my goal is to continuously improve and deliver the high-quality education you expect at RIT.

Given our limited in-person time (2.5 hours/week) and the lab-based nature of this course, we'll use a flipped classroom approach. This means you'll engage with foundational content before class, allowing us to maximize our face-to-face time for hands-on work, problem-solving, and collaborative learning.

I'm committed to making this a valuable experience for all of us—let's learn and grow together this semester.

Student Support Availability

Success in this course depends heavily on your personal health and wellbeing. Recognize that stress is an expected part of the college experience, and it often can be compounded by unexpected setbacks or life changes outside the classroom. Your other instructors and I strongly encourage you to reframe challenges as an unavoidable pathway to success. Reflect on your role in taking care of yourself throughout the term, before the demands of exams and projects reach their peak. Please feel free to reach out to me about any difficulty you may be having that may impact your performance in this course as soon as it occurs and before it becomes unmanageable. In addition to your academic advisor, I strongly encourage you to contact the many other support services on campus that stand ready to assist you. These include the Academic Success Center, College Restoration Program, Disability Services, English Language Center, Higher Education Opportunity Program, Spectrum Support program, and TRiO Support Services. Students can find out about specific services and programs on the Student Affairs Website.

If you feel you are in need of counseling services, you can call Counseling & Psychological Services (CaPS) at 475-2261 during business hours (M-Th, 8 to 5) or go directly to CaPS on the second floor of the August Center (AUG). Additional contact information is available at the link. Tigers Care is a campus-wide effort to enhance, promote, and sustain a culture of caring and support at RIT.
Other avenues of support include:

- The RIT Academic Support Center has several resources for students in terms of assistance with math, science, and writing skills.
- Ombuds Office
- Disability Services Office
- Student Health Center

- Counseling Center
- Center for Women and Gender
- Q Center

Statement on Diversity, Inclusion, and Respect

RIT has developed Policy P05.0 Diversity Statement for all community members. RIT is committed to fostering an inclusive environment where all faculty, staff, and students can thrive both professionally and personally. Through equitable policies and practices, RIT upholds its values of diversity and fairness while ensuring compliance with federal, state, and local laws.

Statement on Academic Accommodations

RIT is committed to providing academic accommodations to students with disabilities. If you would like to request academic accommodations such as testing modifications due to a disability, please contact the Disability Services Office. Contact information for the DSO and information about how to request accommodations can be found at www.rit.edu/dso. After you receive academic accommodation approval, it is imperative that you contact me as early as possible so that we can work out whatever arrangement is necessary.

Statement on Title IX

RIT is committed to providing a safe learning environment, free of harassment and discrimination as articulated in our university policies located on our governance website. RIT's policies require faculty to share information about incidents of gender based discrimination and harassment with RIT's Title IX coordinator or deputy coordinators when incidents are stated to them directly. The information you provide to a non-confidential resource which includes faculty will be relayed only as necessary for the Title IX Coordinator to investigate and/or seek resolution. Even RIT Offices and employees who cannot guarantee confidentiality will maintain your privacy to the greatest extent possible.

If an individual discloses information during a public awareness event, a protest, during a class project, or advocacy event, RIT is not obligated to investigate based on this public disclosure. RIT may however use this information to further educate faculty, staff and students about prevention efforts and available resources.

If you would like to report an incident of gender based discrimination or harassment directly you may do so by using the online Sexual Harassment, Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct Reporting or anonymously by using the Compliance and Ethics Hotline.

If you have a concern related to gender-based discrimination and/or harassment and prefer to have a confidential discussion, assistance is available from any of RIT's confidential resources (listed below).

RIT Counseling and Psychological Services
585-475-2261 (V)
585-475-6897 (TTY)
www.rit.edu/counseling

RIT Student Health Center
585-475-2255 (V)
www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/studenthealth

RIT Ombuds Office
585-475-7357
585-475-6424
585-286-4677 (VP)
www.rit.edu/ombuds/contact-us

NTID Counseling and Academic Advising
585-475-6400
www.ntid.rit.edu/counselingdept

Center for Religious Life
585-475-2137
www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/religion