CS 371L  
Spring 2018  
Journal

Due: Friday nights weekly  
Points: 15 points each (10 entries totaling 150 points)

Description:  
Write a journal that documents your progress on your semester project. You will add a new entry every week.

Required journal entry sections:  
Each weekly entry must contain the following sections:

• **Title:** “Journal Entry for MM/DD/YYYY”

• **Activities:** what you accomplished this week. List tasks you actually performed (not the ones you intended to perform). This may include:
  o Writing code: describe what functionality you worked on
  o Learning frameworks: describe what you went off and studied (and where you found it)
  o Assisting teammates: be specific about what you helped them with (as opposed to what they themselves did)

  It’s okay to say you didn’t do anything in any given week. Time spent on projects ebbs and flows. It’s only a problem if after 10 weeks, you look back and realize you didn’t do a whole lot. 😊

• **Challenges:** list anything that was particularly difficult or represented a problem for you this week.
  o Inability to find documentation on how to perform some task
  o Nasty bug you had trouble fixing
  o Issues with one or more of your teammates

  If you solved the problem, summarize how you accomplished that. **If you need help resolving an ongoing problem** (such as a problematic teammate) be sure to state clearly that you need my help!

• **Plans:** what you plan to work on next week. Note that your plans from last week do not need to match your activities for this week exactly. My intent is to help you plan ahead and instill some self-discipline over the course of the ten weeks. Previous students have told me this was actually helpful.
• **Comments:** this can include concerns (things that worry you about the project going forward), observations (things you noticed or learned this week that you think are noteworthy), and opinions (feeling good about things? Happy? Excited? Stressed? Nervous?).

**Grading:**

• For the first week, choose a format. I prefer titled sections with either paragraphs or bullet points in each section. You could even use this document as a template.

• A typical journal entry will fit on one page. Initially, it may only be half a page, but there will be some weeks where you find you have a lot to talk about and you end up with two pages.

• Each week, **prepend** a new journal entry to the **front** of the journal. This means that the newest entry will be the front page, and the oldest entry will be the last page. Insert a page break so that each entry starts on a new page. Make sure the title/date is at the top of first page of each entry.

• When you’re finished, save the document as a PDF and attach it to the appropriate assignment in Canvas (“JE1”, “JE2”, etc.).

• Each journal entry is due on Canvas by 11:59 on Friday night. **If you miss the deadline, you will get zero for the journal entry,** however, you should still document the activities you completed in the following week’s journal entry to get “credit” for the work you accomplished on the project.

• There is a journal entry due every Friday for the rest of the semester, with two exceptions:
  • No entry due March 16 (the week of Spring Break)
  • No entry due April 27 (the first week of final project presentations)

The last journal entry is due on the last day of classes, and will document work you did on the final presentation as well as last-minute activities on the final version of the project itself. The “plans” section will not be necessary.