



## CSCI-4354 Concepts of Database Design VC01 Fall-2 2026 Syllabus

### WBUOnline SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS & SCIENCES

**Wayland Mission Statement:**

Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused and distinctively Christian environment for professional success and service to God and humankind.

**Name of Instructor:**

Dr. Ronald Norman, Adjunct Professor (Mathematics and Computer Science AND School of Business)

**Phone Number and WBU Email Address:**

619-997-3451 (Mobile in CA – **Pacific Time Zone** - please use in exceptional/urgent cases only)

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**Office Hours:**

By appointment only since this is a 100% online course

**Class Meeting Time and Location: 100% Online (Asynchronous)****Catalog Description:**

Overview of a database system and its components; physical organization of data; data models; relational databases; and query processing.

**Prerequisites:**

CSCI 2313 (Data Structures)

**Required Textbook:**

*Concepts of Database Systems* (CSCI-4354 Title) (Introduction to Databases with SQL) (with zyLabs), Paul Winsberg, Zybooks, 2023.

***NOTE: Zybooks etextbook accessible directly through your Blackboard Access for this course***

**Supplies:**

Students will need access to a machine on which they can install an appropriate Database Server/Client software package.

**Course Outcome Competencies:**

Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Understand basic database concepts, including the structure and operation of the relational data model.
2. Construct simple and moderately advanced queries using Structured Query Language (SQL).
3. Understand and be able to apply logical database design principles, including E-R diagrams and database normalization.
4. Design and implement a small database project.
5. Understand the concept of a database transaction and related database facilities.

**Attendance Requirements:**

All students are expected to attend all class sessions and are responsible for knowing the material covered. No quizzes or exams can be made up unless arrangements prior to the absence have been made. Any student missing more than 25% of the class will fail the class.

**[Link to Statement on Academic Integrity](#)**

Generative AI tools usage encouraged and may be actively assigned in coursework.

- i. Use of generative AI tools is actively encouraged and incorporated into specific assignments for this course.
- ii. Use of generative AI tools for assignments in brainstorming, content understanding, or revision to work is perfectly acceptable if cited and referenced properly in any submitted work for the course.
- iii. Use of generative AI is encouraged as long as students understand the use of generative AI in the course is to be an assistance tool and not the generator of assignments and submitted work. Ultimately, all submitted work must still reflect student's own work, understanding, and analysis.
- iv. Specific parameters for generative AI usage provided by the instructor.
- v. Any use of generative AI tools outside of the approved instructor parameters will be considered a form of plagiarism and academic dishonesty.

**Disability Statement:**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university. The Disability Services Coordinator and Academic Coach serves as the coordinator of students with disabilities and must be contacted concerning accommodation requests (office (806) 291-1057. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.

**Course Requirements and Grading Criteria:**

**Reading (Participation Activities [PA]):** Each week, there will be a chapter of material to read and complete in your textbook (e.g., zyBook). The participation activities are located in each chapter and must be completed in order to receive credit. Assignments will be completed on the zyBooks website which will be accessible through Blackboard.

**Homework (Challenge Activities [CA]):** In this textbook, the homework assignments that must be completed are called the Challenge Activities. These are also complete on zybooks website accessible through Blackboard.

**Labs (zyLabs):** There are a sequence of SQL labs, starting in Week #2 (Chapter 2) and then there are several in Week's 3 & 4, and then at least one lab in additional chapters that must be completed for this

portion of your grade. These are also on the zybooks website accessible through Blackboard. To repeat myself, most other weeks of the course will have at least ONE lab related to the content for that week. These additional labs will be available and submitted directly through Blackboard.

**Weekly Quizzes:** At the end of each week of the course, you will be required to complete an online quiz covering the assignments from that week. The quizzes will be completed in Blackboard. You will have two attempts on each quiz. The quizzes are time limited but open book and open notes.

**Exams:** During the course, there will be two major exams: a **Midterm** and a **Final**. Each test will cover approximately half the course. Both tests are to be taken online during the appropriate dates/time.

### **Late Work Policy**

- Points will not be given for required coursework that is submitted **past its due date stated on the link to the assignment (Readings, Lab(s), Quiz) in our Blackboard course**. There will be no make-up for any assignments. Late assignments will not receive credit/points. Make sure you complete all required course work **by the assigned due dates** to receive up to full point value.
- **Late work will not be accepted (see Due Dates in the Course Weekly Schedule as well as on each assignment within our Blackboard course).**

### **Grade Calculation:**

20% Reading (PA) / Homework (CA)  
30% Labs (zyLabs/Blackboard Labs)  
20% Quizzes  
30% Exams (2 at 15% each)

A: 90 – 100    B: 80 – 89    C: 70 – 79    D: 60 – 69    F: Below 60

Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the vice president of academic affairs to the Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.

**Course Weekly Schedule is on the next page!**

**Course Weekly Schedule: (Tentative, subject to change)**

Week	Dates	Material	Exam Due	Labs Due
1	10/12 – 10/18	1. Database Basics		No Lab
2	10/19 – 10/25	2. Relational Databases		Lab 2
3	10/26 – 11/1	3. Structured Query Language		Lab 3 (16 labs)
4	11/2 – 11/8	4. Database Design		Lab 4 (3 labs)
5	11/9 – 11/15	5. Data Storage	Midterm (Weeks 1-4)	Lab 5
6	11/16 – 11/22*	6. Transaction management		Lab 6
	11/23 – 11/29	Thanksgiving Week	No work due this week	
7	11/30 – 12/6	7. Database Programming		Lab 7
8	12/7 – 12/12**	8. NoSQL Databases	Final (Weeks 5-7)	No Lab

\* Following week 6, there is a weeklong holiday for this online class for Thanksgiving

\*\* The course ends on a Saturday so 12/12 is the last day of the term.

**Academic Honesty:**

Disciplinary action for academic misconduct is the responsibility of the faculty member assigned to this course. The faculty member is charged with assessing the gravity of any case of academic dishonesty, and with giving sanctions to any student involved.

**Important Dates:**

Session Begins	Oct 12
Last day to drop without record	Oct 19
Last day to withdraw with "W"	Nov 13
Thanksgiving week holiday	Nov 23-27
Last day to withdraw with a "WP/WF"	Dec 4
Last Day of Class	Dec 12
Grades submitted to Registrar	Dec 15

This syllabus is only a plan. The teacher may modify the plan during the course. The requirements and grading criteria may be changed during the course if necessary.