CISC 1003 Exploring Robotics Spring, 2026 Syllabus

General Information:

Instructor:	Dr. Danjie Zhu
Class Times:	2:15pm – 3:30pm (Mon. / Wed.)
Classroom:	3208 Ingersoll
Office Hours:	3:30pm – 4:30pm, Wed. (3208 Ingersoll)
E-mail:	Danjie.Zhu81@brooklyn.cuny.edu
MailBox:	2109 Ingersoll Hall (Do not confuse it with Prof. **Zhou**'s mailbox.)

Class Objectives:

To understand the fundamentals of robotics (including aspects of mechanical design) and to learn elementary programming within a graphical environment through the use of project-based educational robotics activities. Students will work on a series of multi-week creative projects using virtual robots to address meaningful and socially important issues.

Textbook:

Required: CISC 1003 (CORC 3303) Coursepack – consisting of readings, case studies, labs, etc. and available for download on http://www.sci.brooklyn.cuny.edu/~dzhu/cisc1003

Recommended: The Robotics Primer by Maja Mataric, Publisher: The MIT Press (September 30, 2007), ISBN-10: 026263354X, ISBN-13: 978-0262633543

Website:

CUNY Brightspace …….. homework assignments, quizzes, lab projects, etc.
http://www.sci.brooklyn.cuny.edu/~dzhu/cisc1003/ ……lecture notes, test schedules, etc.
http://www.sci.brooklyn.cuny.edu/~goetz/agents/courses/corc3303/index.html …… more materials

Class Meetings:

Classes will meet every Monday and Wednesday for 14 weeks, except for Feb. 16 (CC), Apr. 2 (NC), Apr. 6 (NC), and Apr. 8 (NC). This is a very hands-on course. Therefore, **attendance is mandatory**. No matter whether you are in the class or not, you are responsible for whatever is done in class including homework assignments. If you miss an assessment due to an emergency, you must contact the instructor ASAP to arrange for a makeup test.

Course Structure:

Each unit consists of the following:

a. one lecture
b. two labs
c. one individual assessment (in-class quiz), and one group assessment (lab project)

Schedule of Topics:

Unit	Week	Topic
A	1 ~ 3	Introduction to Robotics
B	3 ~ 5	Construction
C	5 ~ 7	Locomotion
D	7 ~ 9	Sensing
E	9 ~ 11	Control
F	12 ~ 14	Robot Teams

Assessments and Exams:

There will be an assessment at the end of each unit (a total of six assessments). Each assessment consists of two sessions, a written quiz and a lab project. The final exam is cumulative and will be on **May 20,** from 1:30pm to 3:30pm. Make sure you are available at the time of the final. All assessment and exam grades will be curved.

Homework Assignments:

Written or reading homework will be assigned at end of each unit on Brightspace. You are required. Finished homework must be submitted through Brightspace. There will be a penalty for lateness, 10% per class being late. Homework received more than two weeks later will not be accepted.

Grading and Evaluation Criteria:

Overall Grade = 6 Assessments (10% each) + HWs (10%) + Final (30%)

Other Requirements:

It is required that you have the credential to access BC Wi-Fi so that you can access the Internet from the laptops in the lab.

Academic Integrity:

Each student is responsible for being aware of what constitutes cheating and plagiarism and for avoiding both. If a violation is found and confirmed, a report will be filed, and penalty be imposed.

Some Important College Deadlines:

1. 02/01/2026: Last day to add or swap a course
2. 02/09/2026: Last day to submit a pass/fail elective
3. 02/15/2026: Last day to drop a course with a WD grade
4. 02/15/2026: Last day to file for Spring 2026/June 1, 2026 graduation
5. 04/13/2026: Last day to withdraw from a course with a grade of W (non-penalty) grade
6. 05/01/2026: Last day to resolve Fall 2025 INC grades