Proposing Coalitions

Add/drop is not yet over! While right now we have 32 students registered for the course, we cannot count on this number as definitive. By all means begin speaking with other students about forming a coalition, but do not submit the request outlined below until I notify the class to go ahead and start sending these requests to me. The purpose for posting this information at this point in time is to give students advance knowledge of what I will be expecting from them once we’re in a position to have students propose coalitions. While I’d like to have eight coalitions, the numbers may support fewer than eight. For now, students should be looking at coalitions of four students each, but we will fine-tune that once add/drop is over.

Students in this class will form coalitions as described elsewhere. The number of coalitions and the number of students per coalition is a function of the number of students officially registered for the class. Students are encouraged to begin now to start looking for other students who they may wish to form a coalition with. Homework 3 (in which students provide some relevant information about themselves) is available, some students may choose to complete their forms early and submit them. I will post forms I receive periodically. Although it would be “nice” if each student submitted something for homework 3, we cannot count on that happening.

We’ll strive to keep the process of proposing coalitions as simple as possible. Once we know the number of coalitions we need and the number of students per coalition, I will notify the class and groups of students can then officially propose their coalitions. Please do not send coalition proposals until I ask for them. Here’s what you’ll need to do.

- Designate one person in your group to email me a message
- Have this person send an email to me and carbon copy the other individuals in the proposed coalition (when you do this, it’s a simple matter for me to reply to all students in the group at one time)
- Use a subject line that reads proposed csci 320-01 coalition
- Include in the body of the email a list of the first and last names for all students in the proposed coalition
- Include in the body of the email a proposed nickname for the coalition (this nickname will be published and so I ask you not to use anything that is offensive) along with a brief
I will process coalition requests in chronological order and I will acknowledge receipt of your email once I get to read it. As I receive and process these requests, I will try to update the course page so that other students will know which students may still be available to form coalitions with. It’s worth noting again that my intent is to make this process as “simple” as possible. One aspect to this is that I expect when students send me these emails, *the emails are complete* and contain all of the requested information (i.e., I expect to process each email just once). If you do send me an email that doesn’t contain all of the requested information, I’ll just return it to you and request the missing information, but your request will “lose its place in the queue”.

This is an imperfect process and so students and groups of students will need to be flexible. This will be especially true if the number of students officially registered in the class does not “work out evenly”. For example, if the number of students in the class called for the creation of eight coalitions, but only supported six coalitions with four students each, then once I approved six coalitions with four students each, none of the remaining proposals could call for four students. Since it’s unreasonable to expect that I will respond to emails in real time, it’s possible that requests will queue up and I don’t get to them right away, so we’ll only discover later on that a group of students needs to modify their proposal. If that’s the case, when I acknowledge receipt of their request, I’ll make it clear what else you need to do. Just be open to the possibility that you’ll be asked to make some adjustments, perhaps by reducing your numbers from four to three students.