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What's
The
Story?

Principles of Complex Systems, Vols. 1 and 2

CSYS/MATH 6701, 6713

University of Vermont, Fall 2025

“Can we just do the one thing we’ve never tried? Can we just do our jobs?”

Assignment 07

It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia [↗](#): The Gang Tends Bar, S12E08 [↗](#)

Episode links: [IMDB ↗](#), [Fandom ↗](#), [TV Tropes ↗](#).

Due: Friday, October 17, by 11:59 pm

<https://pdodds.w3.uvm.edu/teaching/courses/2025-2026pocsverse/assignments/07/>

Some useful reminders:

Deliverator: Prof. Peter Sheridan Dodds (contact through Teams)

Office: The Ether and/or Innovation, fourth floor

Office hours: See Teams calendar

Course website: <https://pdodds.w3.uvm.edu/teaching/courses/2025-2026pocsverse>

Overleaf: \LaTeX templates and settings for all assignments are available at

<https://www.overleaf.com/read/tsxfwwmwdgxj>.

Some guidelines:

1. Each student should submit their own assignment.
2. All parts are worth 3 points unless marked otherwise.
3. Please show all your work/workings/workingses clearly and list the names of others with whom you ~~conspired~~ collaborated.
4. We recommend that you write up your assignments in \LaTeX (using the Overleaf template). However, if you are new to \LaTeX or it is all proving too much, you may submit handwritten versions. Whatever you do, please only submit single PDFs.
5. For coding, we recommend you improve your skills with Python. And it's going to be a no for the catachrestic Excel. Please do not use any kind of AI thing unless directed. The (evil) Deliverator uses (evil) Matlab.
6. There is no need to include your code but you can if you are feeling especially proud.

Assignment submission:

Via **Brightspace** (which is not to be confused with the death vortex of the same name, just a weird coincidence). Again: One PDF document per assignment only.

Please submit your project's current draft in pdf format via Brightspace.

1. Present a plan for your project in a short video.¹

Details:

You will collectively generate a mini-conference of short talks, with each PoCS team member presenting for two to three minutes (max 3:00, 180 seconds).

Here's what you need to know and do:

First: If you have not already done so, please firm up your team and project topic.

Per earlier guidance: Feel free to talk in Teams about possible projects. Pitch your idea and recruit people to your team.

Teams of 2 to 3 are strongly encouraged (4 is maybe too many, 1 is totally okay, 5 is right out).

Below are instructions for the talks and how to submit a video of your talk to Microsoft Streams along with your slides within our Teams environment.

There should be one video and one set of slides per team.

Videos will be private to the course.

These talks always prove to be interesting, diverse, and fun.

Okay, here's the plan for these first talks:

- (a) Talks will be capped at 3:00 minutes per person.
- (b) Your mission, which you have accepted, is to:
 - i. Clearly state the problem/area you're going to investigate;
 - ii. Why it's interesting;
and
 - iii. What you plan to do for the remainder of the semester.
 - iv. Please also quickly introduce yourself at the start (name + your field).
- (c) Talks should absolutely be PG and respectful of others.
- (d) If you are part of a group, you will need to speak for 3:00 minutes each.
Please coordinate your talk with your fellow group members.

¹Please do not request to make a diorama instead of a video. Because of the [REDACTED] in Professor [REDACTED]'s 2017 course on [REDACTED], dioramas are now strictly forbidden.

- (e) Talks that are longer than $n \times 3:00$ will be removed and you will be asked to resubmit.
- (f) Slides: Mandatory. The number should be 1 to 3 per speaker. More can work but certainly not, say, 20, unless flipping through them rapidly helps with your presentation. Your assessment will in part be based on your slides.
- (g) Practice before recording! These are short talks so you can run through them a number of times to straighten everything out.
- (h) **Please submit all three artifacts of (a) slides, (b) talk video, and (c) the current draft of your project to both this week's project submission box on Brightspace and in the Teams Team for PoCS.**
The channel's name will be non-cryptically named with something like "Please post your project videos here!"
- (i) All students will be requested to watch all talks. Providing helpful comments and feedback via Teams is encouraged.
- (j) If you have not done so, please set up your project in Overleaf.