

Directions for GitHub Classroom Sync Instructions

Spring 2026

Updating Your Repository After a GitHub Classroom Sync

Your instructor used **GitHub Classroom Sync assignment** to push updates to your repository. This creates a **pull request (PR)** in your repository.

You must:

1. Merge the GitHub Classroom pull request into `main`
2. Update your own working branch (your `development` branch or another branch you created)

Step 1: Merge the GitHub Classroom Pull Request into main

1. Go to your assignment repository on GitHub
2. Click the **Pull requests** tab
3. Open the PR created by **GitHub Classroom**
4. Click **Merge pull request**, then **Confirm merge**

At this point, `main` is updated. Your development branch is not updated yet.

Step 2: Update Your Development Branch

You are working on a branch like `development` (or another branch name you created). That branch does not automatically update when `main` changes.

Choose one of the options below.

Option A: Command Line (Recommended)

Run these commands from inside your repository directory:

```
git checkout main
git pull origin main

git checkout yourBranchName
git merge main
```

Option B: GitHub Website (Recommended for This Class)

This option uses GitHub's **Sync fork** button.

When you are on your development branch, GitHub may show a message like:

This branch is 1 commit ahead of and 1 commit behind UIC-CS494/...:main.

You will see two buttons: **Contribute** and **Sync fork**.

IMPORTANT: DO NOT click Contribute.

Contribute is for proposing your changes back to the instructor's repository. For this assignment, you want to pull the instructor's changes into your branch.

Correct steps:

1. Use the branch dropdown to select your development branch
2. Click **Sync fork**
3. Click **Update branch**

Because you are **not allowed to edit the README**, you should have **no merge conflicts**. If a conflict appears (for example, the **Update branch** button is disabled or GitHub reports conflicts), **stop and contact the instructor immediately**.

Step 3: Verify Your Branch Is Updated

After updating, your development branch should include the instructor's changes.

You can verify from the command line:

```
git status
```

Summary

- Merge the GitHub Classroom PR into `main`
- Update your development branch
 - Command line: merge `main` into your branch
 - GitHub website: **Sync fork** then **Update branch**
- **Never click Contribute**
- You should not see conflicts. If you do, contact the instructor