Seminar

Course Description
The goal of this course is to expose students to a variety of topics of current interest in Computer Science and Engineering. This will particularly focus on practical issues related to career-oriented topics, such as finding a job, job environment, and graduate school. Presentations about these topics will involve a variety of invited speakers in a seminar environment. This course is being taught to meet W course requirements.

Catalog Description
Investigation and report by students on topics of current interest in computer science.

Prerequisites
Junior or Senior Classification. The course is mainly intended for those students who are about a year or a bit more away from graduation.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Cain Hall, Room B118, or call 845-1637. For additional information visit http://disability.tamu.edu.

Meeting Times & Locations

Time: TR 2:20 – 3:35 PM
Location: RICH 106
Required Resources

**TEXTBOOK**


Publisher: Springer 2004 or 2014


This book is an excellent resource both for general writing style and for computer-science specific reports. The book should also be an excellent reference for the future.

**WEB**

Course Website: [http://courses.cse.tamu.edu/jmichael/f15/481/](http://courses.cse.tamu.edu/jmichael/f15/481/)

Piazza:

eCampus: [https://ecampus.tamu.edu/](https://ecampus.tamu.edu/)

Topics & Learning Outcomes

The course will cover a variety of topics in class, in addition to research topics that students will be exposed to through attending research seminars and reading outside of class. The in-class topics will include material on:

- Career opportunities and pathways for those with undergraduate and/or graduate degrees in computer science and engineering
- Job topics, including: job searching, interviewing, job negotiations, company work environments
- Computer Science/Engineering research, including undergraduate research
- Graduate school

In addition, in-class instruction will be provided on writing for computer science and engineering.

**ABET Outcomes**

This course is intended to meet the following ABET program outcomes:

- An understanding of professional and ethical responsibility
- An ability to communicate effectively – both orally and in writing
- An understanding of the field of computing in a global and societal context
- A recognition of the need for, and an ability to engage in lifelong learning
- A knowledge of contemporary issues
People

Professor

Dr. J. Michael Moore, PhD

- Email: jmichael@cse.tamu.edu
- Office: HRBB 325
- Phone: 979-845-5475
- Office Hours: Posted on Course Website and by appointment
- Web: http://faculty.cse.tamu.edu/jmichael/

Teaching Assistants (TA)
Contact information and office hours will be posted on the Course Website.

- Adam Hair
- Karl Ott
- Michael Nowak
- Paul Taele
- Yin Qu

Important Dates

- Long Assignment 1 due: September 25, 2015
- Long Assignment 2 due: October 23, 2015
- Long Assignment 3 due: November 20, 2015
- Short Assignment 1 due (Resume): September 7, 2015
- Short Assignment 2 due: October 3, 2015
- Short Assignment 3 due: October 30, 2015
- Short Assignment 4 due: November 20, 2015

Grading*

This course will be offered on a Pass/Fail basis, which will be recorded as an A or an F. To receive a satisfactory grade, students must complete all 3 categories of the assignments satisfactorily. Failure to successfully complete any one of these three areas will result in failing the course.

Grading Formula:

If (Average (Best 14 Seminar Scores) ≥ 7 &&
Average (Short Writing Scores) ≥ 7 &&
Average (Long Writing Scores) ≥ 7)
then GRADE = ‘A’ else GRADE = ‘F’
Seminar Reports
Students must successfully complete 14 seminar reports.

- Seminar reports are single-page capture of subject matter communicated by the speaker in class. A form will be provided for you to write your report. The report will be due by 11:59pm on the day of the seminar. The turnitin tool will not allow any turnin after the deadline. No exceptions will be made. We suggest you take copious notes and pay close attention to the speaker during the presentation. You may also BYOD to take notes directly on your device and upload to eCampus during or after the class.

- Seminar reports can be filed for all classes except the first one. We plan on 17 seminar class meetings, so even if some are missed, you should still be able to complete the 14 reports.

- The “missed” classes are meant to account for absences such as sickness, job interviews, etc. Unless you have university excused absences for more than 3 class meetings, it is unlikely you will be allowed to make up missed classes.

- As a mark of respect for the speaker, please arrive on time. If you have a reason you need to arrive a little later, or leave a little bit earlier, please let the Instructor and TAs know in advance.

- Seminar reports will be graded as acceptable or unacceptable in terms of writing. Unacceptable reports will be ‘e-returned’ and one revised version may be resubmitted within 1 week from the date of return.

Suggestions for concerns/improvement of any seminar can be provided on Piazza.

Longer Writing Assignments
Three additional assignments will be required over the course of the semester. Each of these will range from 2-4 pages in length. These will cover different writing styles and different topics. The details of these assignments will be provided later in the course.

Writing Revisions
An important goal of this class is to help you improve your writing. The writing assignments in this class can be (and in some cases must be) revised according to feedback provided on the written assignment. Here are some important aspects to note about revising your written assignments:

- It takes time to grade and comment on written assignments. You should not assume that you can get a quick turnaround of a document you submit. Two weeks or more from the time of submission to the time for feedback is common, especially if you submit right near a deadline.

- If you are interested in faster feedback, submit your work well ahead of deadlines. Even then, this is not a guarantee of a fast turnaround time.

- When submitting your revision, you should attempt to address all previous comments. For example, if you lost points for both spelling and grammar, you should fix both problems in a revision, not just fix the spelling so that you get a passing score. Revisions that did not address the prior comments may be returned without a grade!

- Comments on a prior submission are intended to help you improve your writing, not to guarantee a passing score. Just because you address all the comments does not mean that your revised paper will be acceptable.

- Only one revision attempt will be allowed for Short and Long Assignments
Attendance

Please review Texas A&M student rule 7: http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07

Attendance is expected.

Late Submission Penalty

Seminar Reports
Strict deadline of 11:59pm on the day of the seminar is imposed. If you miss the deadline, you miss the opportunity to turn in the report for that seminar. No exceptions are allowed.

Long and Short Assignments
All short and long assignments will have deadlines associated with them.

- Everyone starts with an ‘account’ of 21 credits.
- Every slipped day results in deduction of 1 credit from your account.
- You are responsible for managing your account against the submission deadlines.
- No exceptions will be made for anyone exceeding this allowance.
- A likely result of missing any short or long assignment will be repeat of the course so please exercise due diligence and caution to prevent this outcome.

One revision of the original version is allowed. Revised version is due within one week of return, with one credit deducted for every day beyond that. No submissions of any kind will be accepted after December 9.

Leftover credits will be utilized to bump (i.e. improve) the score of any given assignment by a maximum of 1 point per the following policy:

3 credits = 1 point on average score

E.g.
- if you have all 21 credits remaining, you will qualify for a 1 point bump across all assignments;
- if you have 15 credits remaining, you will qualify for a 5 point bump distributed equitably to give you best advantage in your scores.
Academic Integrity

All writing is to be done on your own. In your reports, you must be sure to cite any references used in your work. If you have any questions, you should err on the side of assuming cooperation or use of a source is not allowed, and you should check with an instructor or TA first. It is best to get a reply from the instructor or a TA by email, rather than verbally.

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do.”

Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the TAMU community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor System.

Aggie Honor System Office
You should be familiar with the Aggie Honor System Office. Their website provides more information on academic integrity, plagiarism, etc.
http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/

• Definitions of academic misconduct, including plagiarism
  http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/RulesAndProcedures/HonorSystemRules.aspx#definitions

• Potential sanctions

Plagiarism
As this is a writing course, plagiarism is a particularly important topic to be aware of. As we will discuss, your writing is not just the precise words you use but the organization, phrasing, and formulation of entire documents. When you take another person’s work and pass it off as your own, that would be an instance of plagiarism. Plagiarism can include not just direct cut-and-paste of text, but also making just minor modifications to another’s work. Be careful, and remember to always cite your sources.

Acknowledgement
Note that most assignments will include reminders of the academic dishonesty policy. By submitting anything for grading, you are essentially saying “On my honor, as an Aggie, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work. In particular, I certify that I have listed above all the sources that I consulted regarding this assignment, and that I have not received or given any assistance that is contrary to the letter or the spirit of the collaboration guidelines for this assignment.”