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, currently located in the Disability Services building at the Student Services at White Creek complex on west campus or call 979-845-1637. For additional information, visit http://disability.tamu.edu.

Meeting Times & Locations
Time: TR 2:20 – 3:35 PM
Location: HRBB 124
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/sp16/481/](http://courses.cse.tamu.edu/jmichael/sp16/481/)

Piazza:

All questions will be fielded through Piazza. Email should only be used in rare instances.


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

**Topics & Learning Outcomes**

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

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
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.

- Kyung Hoon Kim
- Michael Nowak
- Karl Ott

Important Dates

- Long Assignment 1 due February 14, 2016
- Long Assignment 2 due March 13, 2016
- Long Assignment 3 due April 10, 2016
- Resume due January 25, 2016
- Culture Assignment 1 due February 21, 2016
- Culture Assignment 2 due March 20, 2016
- Culture Assignment 3 due April 17, 2016

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 (14 Seminar Reports Submitted & Average (Best 14 Seminar Scores) ≥ 7 &
All Short Writing Assignments Submitted & Average (Short Writing Scores) ≥ 7 &
All Long Writing Assignments Submitted & Average (Long Writing Scores) ≥ 70%)
then GRADE = ‘A’ else GRADE = ‘F’
Seminar Reports
Students must successfully complete 14 seminar reports.

- You must sign the attendance sheet for a seminar to get credit for the corresponding report.
- Seminar reports are a single-page capture of subject matter communicated by the speaker in class. You should follow the specifications on the course website. The report will be due by 11:59 PM on the day after the seminar. The turnitin tool will not allow any turn in 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 seminars.
- 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 (i.e. with a score of 6 or less) 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
Students will complete three (3) longer written assignments that are 2-4 pages long. These will cover different writing styles and different topics. Assignment details will be available on the course website.

Short Writing Assignments
Students will complete four (4) short written assignments that are 1-2 pages long. Written reports will be graded on a scale of 0 to 10, where 7 is a passing score. Assignment details will be available on the course website.

- 1 resume assignment. You will develop your resume.
- 3 “culture” assignments. These will be reports based on research-oriented computer science/engineering presentations or a set of predetermined research-oriented publications. Information for selecting appropriate source material will be on the course website.

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 no 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 any Assignment.
Attendance

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

Attendance is expected.

You must attend a seminar to submit a report for it.

Early Submission

Long and short assignments may be submitted before the due date to help you organize your time during the semester. If you want the TA to start grading your report prior to the published deadline, you must email the grader for that assignment to let them know you are ready for your assignment to be graded. You can find the grader on the course website. *Note: there is no guarantee of faster grading by doing this, but it is likely if you submit more than a week before the due date.*

Late Submission Penalty

Seminar Reports

The seminar report has a strict deadline of 11:50 PM on the day after the seminar. If you miss the deadline, you miss the opportunity to turn in the report for that seminar. No exceptions are allowed.

*One revision of a seminar with a score less than or equal to 6. This must be submitted within one week of having your grade returned. If you miss this deadline, you miss the opportunity to improve that seminar grade.*

Long and Short Assignments

All short and long assignments will have deadlines.

- **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 result of not submitting any short or long assignment will be an ‘F’ for the course. 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 May 3.*

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/](http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/)

- Definitions of academic misconduct, including plagiarism [http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/RulesAndProcedures/HonorSystemRules.aspx#definitions](http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/RulesAndProcedures/HonorSystemRules.aspx#definitions)

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. Moreover, you can also plagiarize yourself by submitting work done for another class or for a prior semester of this course. If you want to reuse material you have submitted before you need to ask the instructor or TA prior to submitting.

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.”