
Lamar University

COSC 5100, Spring 2004

Graduate Seminar

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Office Hours: MWF 9:30 ~ 12:05 AM or by appointment

Class meeting times and place:

Wednesday, 1:30 ~ 2:20 PM, Maes 113

Course Description and Purpose:

This course is a prerequisite of COSC5369 – Graduate Project and COSC 5390 – Master Thesis. No student can register the two course for graduation before taking this course with a grade A or B.

You are in this course to polish your skill in presenting technical topics or research results in computer science. Particularly, you will learn how to write a technical report that satisfies the requirements of Computer Science Department for graduation.

Textbook:

Writing for Computer Science – The art of effective communication
by Justin Zebol, Springer Verlag, 1997

- We do not ask the bookstore to order the book. You should order the book by yourself.
No Xerox copy of the textbook is allowed to bring to the class.

How this class works:

You are asked to search the Internet for articles related to the following topics.

Part I:

1. How to search and obtain the papers you need in your research? How to use them? What is plagiarism, and what is not? What would be the consequence of plagiarism?
2. What is extended abstract? How to write a technical report?
3. How to present a research paper in 20 minutes?
4. How to write a master thesis or a graduation project report?
5. How to organize the defense of a master thesis or a graduate project?

I will divide the class into several teams on a random basis. Starting from the 3rd week, each team will give a 10 minutes presentation on the topics above. You will be reassigned to a different team when we move to a new topic.

You will rank the performance of each team; rank 1 means the best team, rank 8 means the worst (if we have 8 teams). You can always put your own team in the 1st position. No two teams can receive the same rank. Your name will be disclosed for responsibility of your ranking.

Part II:

For the final presentation, you should form your own team. Each team has at most 5 students. Upon the agreement of your team, choose one of the topics listed in the following. No two teams are allowed to work on the same topic for the final presentation. I will simply use first come first serve basis to approve your selection. So, form you team and pick up your topic as soon as possible.

1. Regular Languages
2. Context-Free Languages
3. Turing Machines and Computability
4. Random Number Generators
5. The Concepts of Computational Complexity
6. The Concepts of Cryptography
7. The Concepts of Network Security
8. Web-Server and its Applications
9. Mobile Agent and its Application
10. The Principle of Software Engineering
11. TCP/IP internet protocols.
12. Parallel Computing

The presentation will be 45 minutes long, and a final report that complies with the format for CS master thesis or project report should be submitted. No report submitted after the last presentation will be accepted. You will also give a rank to the final presentations, but I will grade the written report.

Grading Policy:

Each short presentation in Part I worth 60 points, the final presentation worth 100, and the final report worth 200 points. Thus, the total score is:

$$(60 \times 5) + 100 + 200 = 600.$$

The points you receive for the presentations are based on the following formula:

$$s \times \left(1 - \frac{r - 1}{2n}\right),$$

where s is the full score of the work, r is the average rank of the work received, and n is the number of the teams in class.

Points	Grade	
540 ~ 600	A	Excellent
400 ~ 539	B	Good
200 ~ 399	C	Satisfactory
0 ~ 299	F	Failure

Your grade will be given according to your total points and the table above.