Ada Lovelace, Charles Babbage, and Alan Turing (public domain images)

**Course and Office Hours**

Class meets: M 13:00 PM – 13:50 PM EBA 251  
Professor Marie Roch, office GMCS 533 M 5:30-6:20 W 1:00-1:50  
tel: 619 594 5830 e-mail: marie • roch a t sdu • edu

**Course Overview**

This course is designed to help you learn to master the art of communicating technical and ethical issues to an audience. Other goals of the course are to ensure that you understand the importance of proper citation, avoiding plagiarism, and critical thought.

**Enrollment Information**

Prerequisites: Upper-division standing in computer science.

**Course Materials**

There is no formal text for this course. If you are putting together graphs of information for any of your presentations, it is highly recommended that you browse Edward Tufte’s *The Visual Display of Quantitative Information*, 2001, Graphics Press, Cheshire CT.

**Course Structure and Conduct**

CS 490 is a presentation course. We will spend the first two weeks discussing the elements of a good presentation. Starting in the third week, the course will consist of presentations and critique by students.

**Course Assessment and Grading**

Each student will deliver two or three ten minute presentations (number to be determined based on enrollment). Presentations should be well rehearsed so that they are within a minute or two of the ten minutes. This will be followed by a brief five minute question and answer/critique session. Days for presentations will be assigned. The first presentation must be on a social/ethical issue related to computer science. The second must be on a technical aspect. The final presentation may be on any computer science related topic.

It is expected that the student conduct research for each presentation and one should typically have a minimum of three sources. At least two of these sources must be scholarly in nature, that is to say they should be from a computer science journal (e.g. *Communications of the ACM, ACM Queue, IEEE Spectrum, a textbook, etc.*).

Seventy percent of your grade will be from the presentations, and thirty percent from class participation. There are no exams for this course.
Other Course Policies

Academic Honesty:
You are free to discuss ideas and strategies for approaching presentations with others, but students must complete work on their own. Using other people’s work in any form (i.e. the web, other students) will result in disciplinary action.

Plagiarism is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. You are responsible for understanding plagiarism; the library has a tutorial at http://library.sdsu.edu/guides/tutorial.php?id=28. If you have any questions about plagiarism after taking the tutorial, I will be happy to assist you.

My standard course of action is to report students whom I believe have cheated or plagiarized to the Judicial Procedures Office. In addition to the academic penalty (usually an F for the course), Judicial Procedures may decide upon additional sanctions such as expulsion.

Classroom policy:
Turn cell-phones off before class and refrain from chatting during class as both disturb the students around you. If you find yourself unable to resist chatting, I’ll ask you once to be quiet. If I have to ask again, I’ll ask you to leave for the day.

Conflicts/Issues:
Should you have any concerns about the course, please see me during my office hours or make an appointment and we will try to resolve the problem together. If you are not satisfied with the resolution after having discussed the issue with me, you may contact Dr. Leland Beck.