CS 490 Senior Seminar (Section 1)
Spring 2016

1. Course: CS 490, Senior Seminar
2. Lecture: 1 Unit, 1730-1845 Tue in GMCS-328
3. Instructor: Guy Leonard, gleonard@mail.sdsu.edu, Office Hours: 2015-2045 Tues in GMCS 540
4. Required Text: None.
5. CS 490 Course information:
   a. Course Description: Preparation and delivery of oral presentations on advanced topics in computer science. General principles of organization and style appropriate for presenting such material.
   b. Prerequisites: Fifteen units of upper division computer science courses.
   c. Course Type: This is a required course for a B.S. in Computer Science
6. Specific goals for CS 490
   a. Course-level student learning outcomes:
      1. Ability to design, develop, and deliver oral presentations on technical and other computer-related topics
      2. Ability to research a technical topic in computer science and develop and use visual aids to enhance your presentations
      3. Ability to design and develop select and use a presentation style that suits the material being presented
      4. Ability to communicate effectively with an audience of technical peers while presenting prepared slides/media
   b. Relationship to Program Course Outcomes:
      1. An understanding of professional, ethical, legal, security and social issues and responsibilities
      2. An ability to communicate effectively with a range of technical audiences
      3. An ability to analyze the local and global impact of computing on individuals, organizations, and society
7. Topics covered in this course:
   a. Designing and delivering presentations on computer-related topics
   b. Developing and using effective visual aids
   c. Using presentation software such as PowerPoint, Prezi, or other similar software.
   d. Communication with the audience
   e. Technical topics in Computer Science (specific content varies)
   f. Social, legal, and ethical topics related to computing (specific content varies)
8. Course schedule:

Presentation dates to be assigned individually for each student (approximately one every 3 weeks). All students are required to attend all other students presentations.

Towards the end of the semester I will announce a date for the MFT (Major Field Test) which you are expected to participate in. It’s a one time event and takes two hours to complete; the exam will be administered in one of the Departments computer labs. The test results are for your own use and the Department’s use, it will not be used as part of your grade for this (or any other) course at SDSU. More information will be provided in class.

9. Grading policies:

Evaluation: Each student shall prepare and deliver three oral presentations on topics related to Computer Science. Each of your three presentations will be equally weighted.

- Oral presentations will be 70% of your grade
- Class Participation will be 30% of your grade

Presentations (3): You will develop and present three (3), 10-15 minute oral presentations on topics of your choice. The first of these must consist of primarily technical material (as long as it is in Computer Science). The second presentation must be concerned with some social, legal, or ethical aspect of computing. The third presentation may be on any technical topic you choose (as long as it is in Computer Science).

Attendance (all): You are required to attend all presentations to support your peers’ presentations. The second and third presentations will include question/answer opportunities and you are expected to provide questions that the presenter may address.

Final Grade: Standard curve

10. Other Course Policies, class organization

During the first few class meetings, we will look at sample presentations and talk briefly about preparing and delivering presentations.

During one of the first few class meetings, we will agree on a schedule of presentations for the semester. This schedule (including any revisions) will always be available on the class Blackboard site. It is very important that you be ready to deliver a presentation when you are scheduled; if something interferes
with this, please let me know as soon as possible. Late presentations (without an acceptable reason) will be penalized.

Part of your course grade will be based on class participation (giving other people feedback on their presentations). This means that class attendance is important! As a courtesy to other speakers, please make every effort to be in class on time (or even a few minutes early). If you arrive late and a presentation is in progress, wait outside of the classroom until the student-speaker has completed their presentation; students interrupting a presentation in progress will be penalized.

I encourage you to use Powerpoint (or equivalent) or some other type of software in your presentation. The classroom provides a PC, a Mac, and a VGA cable for your laptop; the PC and Mac have Powerpoint and browsers. Be sure to try the software and equipment in the classroom (before the day of your presentation) to check that everything is working properly. Please contact me to arrange a time to do this if you need assistance accessing the equipment.

11. Presentation ideas and development examples

I recommend that you present topics about which you have some special interest or knowledge. You could also base your presentations on papers that you find in sources such as *Computer* or *Communications of the ACM*. Please see me individually if you have questions about whether a topic is suitable, or if you need help in finding a topic to present. Here are some examples of topics that have been presented in previous semesters (but there are many, many more):

- Digital Image Processing
- Video Game Design
- Intel MMX technology
- TCP/IP Protocol Suite
- Climate Prediction Models
- Computers in Law Enforcement
- Gambling on the Internet
- Virtual Retinal Displays
- Internet Addiction
- Software Piracy

I also encourage you to browse through some of the ACM or IEEE chapter’s online/digital libraries for examples; one example can be found here:

http://dl.acm.org/

To help you develop presentations, the following site is a good resource:

http://www.kumc.edu/SAH/OTE/Ed/jradel/effective.html

Additionally, you should explore one or more of the many sources of good presentations to get ideas from, such as this Chapter of the ACM (Association for Computing Machinery):
Another good reference is Garr Reynolds’ presentation tips:

http://www.garrreynolds.com/preso-tips/

12. Students with disabilities:

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that accommodations based upon disability cannot be provided until you have presented your instructor with an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.