

CS 7123: RESEARCH SEMINAR
FALL 2008, COURSE SYLLABUS

CS 7123: Mon/Wed 8:30-9:45pm in MS 2.02.12

Instructor

Instructor: Dr. Jeffery von Ronne
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Office Location: S.B. 4.01.34
Office Hours: Wed. 2:30-3:30pm, Thu. 3:30-4:30pm, and by appointment

Course Description and Goals

“Presentation and analysis of literature in a selected area of research. May be repeated, a minimum of 6 hours is required for the Doctoral degree.”

Students will give presentations, listen to presentations of other students and department faculty, and discuss these presentations.

The goals of this course are for students to increase their appreciation and understanding of current research being conducted in different research areas of Computer Science and to gain proficiency and confidence in giving presentations.

Textbook

There will be no text book for this course.

Prerequisites

Matriculation as a PhD student in Computer Science.

Requirements

Depending on enrollment and the number of guest speakers, students will be required to give one or two presentations on topics approved by the instructor. (A list of suggested topics / research papers will be provided.) Talks should generally be 30-40 minutes and either present a research paper or a survey of an area of computer science. Students giving talks on their own research which will also be presented at another venue, will generally be allowed to conform to the time limits and other technical requirements of that venue.

In addition, to the presenter, at least two other students will be assigned to read each paper and prepare a one page summary and critique of the paper prior to the class. The critique should address: how well written the paper is, the paper's contribution (and its novelty and significance), and the paper's methodology (how does the paper establish its technical claims). Students may also include any ideas they might have that would improve on the approach in the paper.

Students are expected to attend all classes and participate in discussions. Students will provide feedback to their classmates about their presentations using a provided rubric.

Grading

Grading will be based on:

30% Attendance

20% Paper Critiques

20% Discussion Participation, and

30% Presentation

Attendance will be evaluated as discussed below. Paper critiques will be evaluated on a pass/fail basis. Participation will be evaluated based on whether the students listening, asking questions, and contribute to conversations during class. Presentations will be evaluated based on the preparation of the slides, apparent mastery of the paper being presented, and the execution of the presentation itself.

There will be no exams.

Attendance

Attendance for all scheduled talks is mandatory and will be the basis for 30% of the grade. Students are allowed to miss two talks without penalty. Additional unexcused absences will result in a reduction in the attendance grade at a rate of 3% of the course grade per class missed. Students with multiple excused absences may be asked to make that up by giving additional presentations.

Extra Credit

Students who give additional talks beyond the minimum required will receive bonus points which can be used to make up excused and unexcused absences and reduce the number of required critiques.

Scholastic Dishonesty

Please refer to UTSA's Student Code of Conduct for a description of expected behavior and the potential penalties for scholastic dishonesty.

Students should be careful to properly attribute any material taken from others that they use in their presentations.

Course Web Page, Schedule, and Announcements

Additional information can be found on the course web page:

<http://www.cs.utsa.edu/~vonronne/classes/cs7123-f08/>

A list of currently scheduled presentations will be kept at:

<http://www.cs.utsa.edu/~vonronne/classes/cs7123-f08/schedule.html>

Important announcements will be posted on the web page and/or the department email mailing lists. Students are generally expected to check the course web page at least once a week, and their department email accounts at least once in the 24 hour period prior to each class.