Specialist Seminar: Computer Science
Fall 2018

Seminar Instructor: Yong Zhuang

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Meeting times: Wednesdays: 10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Course Description

The CS Seminar offers academic support to students enrolled in various computer science courses (e.g., CS210, CS310, CS420) and follows the program of study outlined in each syllabus. It offers individual and small-group tutoring that is tailored to specific student needs. Thus, by attending the CS Seminar, students get the added benefit of extra practice with their course-specific content.

The CS Seminar is divided into following sections:

Homework support (60 minutes): The seminar instructor will answer specific questions about content in assigned course readings, will provide clarifications about homework assignments and projects, and will provide some guidance as students work on their weekly assignments.

Debugging and coding practice (30 minutes): Since computer science courses emphasize the development of "efficient design, implementation, and debugging techniques," students enrolled in the CS Seminar will practice debugging and coding under the guidance of the seminar instructor with the goal of advancing these core CS skills.

Note: Students should NOT expect the seminar instructor to provide them with solutions to particular problems; rather, they will get guidance on how to develop efficient coding and debugging techniques and will have opportunities to practice them.

Previewing upcoming assignments/anticipating future challenges (30 minutes): Students will follow regular CS course syllabi and class schedules (e.g., CS210, CS310, CS420) to get the seminar instructor's clarifications about upcoming assignments, to review relevant content in preparation for upcoming quizzes and/or exams, and to develop studying techniques.

Note: Time allocated for each section (homework support, debugging/coding; preview of future assignments) might be adjusted depending on students' needs during a particular week. For instance, if students need to prepare for an upcoming test, more time can be spent on this rather than coding/debugging.

Expectations for Students

1. Attendance is mandatory. It is monitored by the seminar instructor and enforced by the GSSP Office. Students are expected to stay for the entire Seminar session. If individual students complete all due homework assignments earlier, they have the following options, depending on their priorities during a particular week: 1) spend more time coding/debugging; 2) study for upcoming tests/exams/quizzes; 3) revisit or start new assigned readings; 4) start working on next week's assignments.

2. Students must complete assigned readings **prior to** the Seminar and come prepared to ask questions and seek clarifications about specific concepts/content they encountered.

3. Students must start working on assigned homework projects **prior to** the Seminar and come prepared to ask questions and seek clarifications about particular assignments.

4. Students must bring personal technology necessary for engaging in the CS Seminar activities outlined above, including coding and debugging.

Have a productive semester!