

Course Name CSCE 481: Seminar
Term Spring 2022
Meeting Time Section 599: TR 11:10 am – 12:25 pm ONLINE

Course Description and Prerequisites

Seminar. Credits 1. (1-0).

The goal of this course is to expose students to a variety of topics of current interest in Computer Science, with a particular focus on leader development. Topics to be addressed include practical issues related to careers in the public and private sectors, such as job seeking activities, workplace environment, and graduate school. Invited speakers will make presentations in a seminar format, encouraging discussion and exploration. This course is NO LONGER being taught to meet a formal writing requirement (i.e., this seminar is NOT a "W" Course).

This course is designed for undergraduate students who are intending to graduate within 9-21 months, and therefore, students will need to be either a Junior or Senior classification.

Learning Outcomes or Course Objectives

The course will cover a variety of topics in class, in addition to research topics that students will be exposed to through attending research seminars outside of class. The in-class topics will include:

- Career opportunities and pathways for those with undergraduate and/or graduate degrees in computer science and engineering
- Job topics, including job searching, interviewing, and negotiating
- Company work environments
- Computer Science/Engineering research, including undergraduate research
- Graduate school
- Leadership and Leader Development

Instructor Information

Name Ricardo Gutierrez-Osuna
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Office hours by appointment
Office location Peterson 309
Grader Yingying Wang
Email address wyytamu@tamu.edu

Textbook and/or resource material

Optional Readings: Interesting Readings as communicated by Course Instructor

Grading Policies

The student's semester grade will be based on class attendance and completion of a report for each seminar. Attendance will be taken via Zoom. "Online Arrival" past 11:20 am or leaving before the conclusion of the lecture without prior approval will be marked as ABSENT. The seminar report will be submitted at the conclusion of the talk. **The length of the report should be at least 200 words but no more than 400 words.** The report should include the following information:

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- Name of the speaker and affiliation
 - Summary of the talk:
 - o For a company talk, you may describe some of the following: (1) the industry sector of the company and its main products, (2) the role that computing plays at the company, (3) career opportunities/paths for CS/CE graduates, (4) a day in the life of a CS/CE graduate at the company, (5) anything you learned about the company.
 - o For a regular talk (e.g., on a specific topic, such as artificial intelligence), you may write a free-form summary or a traditional summary (motivation, problem statement, proposed solution, results and conclusions), whichever you feel is more appropriate
 - Your thoughts:
 - o For a company talk, you may discuss some of the following topics: (1) aspects of working at the company that you liked the most, (2) whether or not you would like to work at this company, and why, (3) aspects of the presentation and Q&A that you found interesting or informative, (4) aspects of the presentation and Q&A that could be improved, etc.
 - o For a regular talk, you may write a critique or discuss your thoughts. For example, is the work interesting and why? do you think the results are important? what questions would you ask the speaker? do you have any ethical concerns about the topic?

Students will also be required to complete an Ethics and Professional Responsibility module that is available on Canvas. This module must be completed by May 3, 2022 11:59pm.

Class attendance is essential for student success; students are required to promptly and regularly attend all their classes. A record of attendance will be maintained from the first week of classes through the last day of class, and will constitute part of the participation grade for the course.

Absences may only be excused as defined by the Texas A&M University Student Rules available at <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07>. These absences may be made up by watching YouTube Videos (specific video links will be sent on the course's Canvas webpages). Only two makeup opportunities will be provided. Deadline to submit your reports is December 8, 2021 11:59pm.

Grading Scale

The grading scale will be based off the number of meetings a student attends divided by the total number of classes held. These points cannot be made up, and extra credit will not be offered. So, if there are 14 meetings, you can miss one class and still make an A in the class ($13/14=92\%$), miss two classes and still make a B ($12/14=85\%$), and miss three classes and still make a C ($11/14=78\%$).

Point grading system (out of 100 assignable points)	
A	90 - 100 points
B	80 - 89 points
C	70 - 79 points
D	60 - 69 points
F	< 60 points

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation

requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services. For location, contact information, and other details, visit <http://disability.tamu.edu>.

Academic Integrity

For additional information please visit: <http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu>

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do.”