

COSC 3050, Spring 2016

Final Exam Instructions

General Instructions:

You are to write a paper that will be turned in via WyoCourses by 12:15 PM, May 11, 2016. Late papers will not be accepted. There will be another document posted after the last class that will contain three or four possible topics. You will choose one of them and write a two page paper on that topic. This paper should be focused and well-reasoned. Do not simply present a rambling hodgepodge of snippets gleaned from various unreliable sources like Facebook, random blogs, and perhaps the evilest of all, Wikipedia.

These are **topics** NOT titles. You have to decide how you are going to argue your views/opinions on the chosen subject. Remember, you cannot just say “I am right” without explaining how your view is different the other view. That means you have to also talk about the other view.

You should do at least some research for this. It is not a “research paper” *per se*, but how can you discuss a subject without really understanding the elements you are using for arguments? Which means you will include a bibliography. I am not going to require in-text citations, footnotes, or anything academic like that.

You should know how to reference documents. If you do not, ask. DO NOT USE MLA, APA, or any of those types of styles. Neither the Librarians nor the Psychologists write for Computer Science. At the end of this document is an example of the ACM style. Use that.

Reference sources must have at least some editorial oversight. I prefer published papers, newspaper article, and the like. The author “Anon” or “Anonymous” will not be acceptable. If the newspaper article does not have an author, do not use it.

The use of quotations is completely outlawed. I want to know what you think, not what someone else thinks. That being said, do not simply leave out the quotation marks and plagiarize the documents anyway. This is an ethics class after all and I am ethically bound to give such papers a 0.

I strongly suggest that you **not** put this paper off. Last minute papers usually get very poor grades. I also suggest that you proofread the document **several times**. This includes checking for spelling, word use (the wrong word spelled correctly does no good) and grammar. Spell checkers only know how to spell, not which word to use. Grammar checkers are even worse.

Grading:

- Presentation of topic; clarity and coverage : 75%
This includes the correct number of pages. I am going to severe with deductions for papers that are too short or have obviously been padded out with “noise.”
- Quality of references: 5%
- Compliance with rules of assignment (paper layout,etc.): 10%
- Spelling and grammar: 10%

Paper requirements:

- You will submit this paper as an MS Word document (.doc or .docx), as a LibreOffice (OpenOffice) document (.odt) or you can use L^AT_EX (my personal preference) and turn in a PDF or PostScript document. Word, LibreOffice and L^AT_EX are the **only** options. Do NOT generate a PDF with anything except L^AT_EX. The other programs (like Word) that create PDF do **not** do it correctly or consistently and often use fonts that are not portable.
- Upload the completed document to the assignment on WyoCourses. I will print out a copy if I think I need one.
- This paper will be at least two (2) full pages, not counting the title page and the bibliography and not more than four (4) pages. A full page has text extending from the top margin to the bottom margin. There are to be no *headers* that take up additional space at the top of the document. Courses often require that the author’s name appears on each page, this is **not** the case for this course.
- The document will have one inch (1”) margins on all sides. I have a ruler and will certainly check if your margins appear to be incorrect. These dimensions are easy to set in the all three systems.
- The font will be one of Times New Roman (Times or Times Roman in L^AT_EX), CMR (the L^AT_EX default and what this document is typeset in), Calibri (becoming the MS Word default) or in LibreOffice use the default that may be labeled “Thorndale” (but is not) or Liberation Serif. No other fonts will be acceptable. The entire document will be 12 point font. This includes the cover page and the bibliography. The only text highlights that are allowed are italics (and then only for foreign words not in general usage) and bold for emphasis. They must be used very sparingly.
- The text will be single spaced. MS Word sometimes tends to things such as 1.15 and 1.5 spacing, do not let that happen. It is easy to change and you are Computer Science majors, so figuring it out should not be a problem.
- Do not try to play games with the amount you have to write. Do **not** include tables or images. Two pages is two pages, not 1 and a couple of lines or 1.75. The best way to ensure two pages is to write more than two.
- There will be **no** blank lines between paragraphs. Again, an easy setting. And last year a number of students could not figure out I meant this.

- The first line of every paragraph will be indented three-tenths (0.30) of an inch. This is approximately 3 characters. Again this is simply mechanics and MS Word, LibreOffice, and L^AT_EX all support it. If I find indents too large or too small, I will make deductions.
- The pages will be numbered at the bottom using Arabic numerals, the numerals will be centered between the left and right margins. The page numbering is usually in a *footer*. This footer should not be larger than three (3) lines. This will provide at least one line of separation between the page number and the last line of text. Remember that the bottom margin is one inch, so the page numbering will be inside that margin. Again, most word processing software handles this easily.
- There will be a title page that will have the title of the paper, centered horizontally and vertically, your name centered on the line under the title, the date centered on the line under your name and the course number (COSC 3050) and semester (Spring 2016) centered under the date. See the example title page which is the last page of this document. The title page will not be numbered, but the rest of pages in the document, including the bibliography will be.
- The bibliography will be in the ACM style which is shown starting on the next page. The bibliography will start on a page by itself, the only text (other than the references) will be “Bibliography” centered on the top line of text. The bibliographic items will be individually single spaced but each item will be separated from the next by a single blank line. Bibliography pages will be numbered consecutively with the rest of the document. That means that if the last page of text is page 3, the first page of the Bibliography will be page 4.

Whatever else, remember that if there are any questions, you have to ask. Do not wait until the last minute, especially during finals week.

Bibliography Info

Bibliographic entries:

Notes:

1. Do not use pp: just consecutive page numbers separated by a dash, 45-54
2. Authors' names are in all caps. This is NOT the same as “small caps” font.
3. Italics are used as shown for the title of the major document (book, journal, etc.) NOT the article.
4. For periodicals, include Volume, Edition and Number information if available.
5. The entries are organized within the bibliography alphabetically by last name of primary (first) author.

Bibliographic entry **examples** on next page.

For article in journal:

ABDELBAR, A.M., AND HEDETNIEMI, S.M. 1998. Approximating MAPs for belief networks in NP-hard and other theorems. *Artificial Intelligence* 102,21-38.

For book:

GINSBERG, M. 1987. *Readings in Nonmonotonic Reasoning*. Morgan Kaufmann, Los Altos, CA.

For article in a book or collection:

GREINER, R. 1999. Explanation-based learning. In *The Encyclopedia of Cognitive Science*, R. WILSON AND F. KEIL, Eds. MIT Press, Cambridge, MA, 301-303.

For article in Conference Proceedings:

MAREK, W., AND TRUSZCZYNSKI, M. 1989. Relating autoepistemic and default logics. In *Proceedings of the 1st International Conference on Principles of Knowledge Representation and Reasoning*, Toronto, Canada, May 1989, H. BRACHMAN AND R. REITER, Eds. Morgan Kaufmann, San Mateo, CA, 276-288.

For article in periodical (such as magazine or newspaper):

DEUTSCH, LINDA, 2008. Suicide case: Cyberspace law or human drama? *The Houston Chronicle*. November 18, 2008.

For web document:

JONES, MILTON R., 2007. The Whichness of Why. <http://www.scamalog.com/~jones/papers/whichness.html>. Document dated May 14, 2007, Last accessed on January 21, 2009.

The next page is the sample title page.

The Making of an Acting Career
James Doohan
May 8, 2016
COSC 3050, Spring 2015