

CS 200 - Paper 1 - Spring 2017

1 Deadlines

Abstract - 2/6

Rough draft - 2/12

Final draft - 2/27

2 Topic

“Set it, and forget it!”

– Ron Popeil, Showtime Rotisserie infomercial.

We have been discussing the intertwined histories of computing and society in general. For this paper, you will focus on a particular area of society and produce a survey paper of the integration of computing into this area, as well as the evolution and innovations in computing influenced by this area. If you chose stamp collecting as your particular area, for example, your paper would discuss both how computers were adopted to change how people collect stamps, as well as how stamp collecting changed the course of technological innovation. This would be a pretty crummy paper, so pick an area more interesting than stamp collecting.

Your paper should go into more depth on your topic than Ceruzzi’s book. The time period covered should include pre-computer (for your area) through the present day. You must discuss both the social and computing contexts. If you have an area you are excited to write about but are worried about being able to cover one of the contexts, let me know. We may be able to find a tweak in order to make it appropriate for this paper.

3 Format

This paper is a historical survey. It should cite information from several reliable sources, combining the facts into a coherent narrative. You are to write for a general adult audience. Do not assume the reader to have extensive technical knowledge. Strive for clarity and succinctness in your writing. Do not write in the first person.

In addition to Ceruzzi, you must cite at least two other written references. These may be books or articles from academic journals, major newspapers, or established magazines. I recommend Ceruzzi’s references as a starting point for finding your own. Blogs and websites like Wikipedia may be used to discover sources, but they are not to be cited from and will not count towards your number of references.

You’ll start with a short (~150–200 word) abstract describing your proposed topic. This will be due earlier (2/6), so that we can make sure you are on the right track. Of course, please feel free to contact me earlier if you are nervous about your topic! Completion of your abstract on time counts for 10% of the paper grade.

A rough draft will be due 2/12, providing ample time for your WA conference. This peer revision is extremely helpful in fine-tuning your draft so that you end up with a final product you can be proud of. Remember that your WA's time is valuable. The conference is required and influences the rough draft portion of your grade. In total, the rough draft and WA meeting count for 20% of the paper grade.

The rough draft and final paper should be submitted in PDF. Your references must be appropriately cited. No specific reference format is required, but enough information must be provided for finding any source you use. Plagiarism is unacceptable. The full paper must be at least 1000 words. This word count does not count your references.