

## **Writing Assignments in CSCI/CSIS 602**

### **Motivation**

A graduate degree involving the study of software engineering requires not only theoretical knowledge of software engineering practices, but also the ability to conduct research, present arguments, and advance the discipline. As such you are required to complete three writing assignments over the course of the semester, with the subject matter lying completely outside the textbook, thus requiring you to conduct independent research.

### **References**

A reading list and/or starter journal articles may be provided from time to time, but the successful student utilizes academic research tools; library volumes, textbooks, online journal indexes provided by academic libraries, and sites like Google Scholar, etc., are helpful in locating additional material. Wikipedia is not an acceptable reference, but feel free to start a search there. Good references include refereed journal articles and books. Rarely will a website alone be an acceptable reference.

### **Writing Style**

Writing must reflect the graduate level capabilities of the student in terms of style, formatting, grammar, spelling, vocabulary, and proper citations. Errors and inconsistencies will be penalized severely. General guidelines for length, fonts, margins, etc. will be given as a guideline, but content will count above all else. If you do not have enough content to meet the requested length, justify the shorter length (brevity is not necessarily bad) or just admit that you did not put enough time into the assignment; never bloat or inflate the perceived length of your papers with elementary school tricks like wider margins, line spacing, superfluous figures, etc., as those gimmicks ruin your credibility as a scholar.

### **Submission**

Late papers are never accepted without severe penalties. Start early and manage your time well. You will lose no less than 15% credit per 24 hours that a paper is late, if it is accepted at all. If you feel you will be submitting late, or that a sloppy on-time submission would lose more credit than a well-written late submission, contact the instructor ahead of time and arrange a late submission.

All papers will be submitted electronically. Follow the assignment-specific instructions.

### **Presentation**

Selected students will be asked to give a short (five minutes or less) defense or overview of their papers. This may be requested any time after the submission deadline, so be prepared to deliver remarks on your work. There will be no slides needed -- just a brief oral defense or overview of your work.