

CSC450-01, Senior Research
Fall 2016
Eastern Connecticut State University

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Science Building, Rm 257

Office Hours: MW: 3-5:00
F: 3-4:00, or by appointment

Course information:

Title: Senior Research
Day/Time: MWF 2:00 – 2:50 PM (SCI 135)
Section: 01
Credit: 3 hours

Course Materials:

1. Textbook: Writing Research Papers, James D. Lester and James D. Lester, Jr. Pearson, 2012 (ISBN: 978-0-205-05933-1)
2. Course notes and class website: <https://gdancik.github.io>
3. Piazza (<https://piazza.com>) will be used for online discussion. A mobile app is available from the App store (iPhone/iPad) or Google Play (Android devices)

Course Description

As the culminating capstone of the liberal arts curriculum, this course offers students the opportunity to reflect on and apply knowledge and skills acquired in the first two tiers and in the computer science curriculum. The focus is to engage in independent inquiry, to apply critical thinking to solving specific problems in computer science, and to reflect on this effort as an outcome of the liberal arts education. Students will study the process of and methodologies in computer science research. Presentation of research results and writing of research papers are required. This course also fulfills the final stage of the writing-intensive requirement for the major.

LAC Tier III Independent Inquiry Outcomes

This course meets the Tier III requirements for Independent Inquiry of the Liberal Arts Core Curriculum. This course will achieve the following outcomes:

- Demonstrate the ability to engage in independent inquiry (*Research Project*)
- Apply current and critical thinking in a focused area of study (*Research Project, Article Discussions*)
- Reflect on the context of their Independent Inquiry or artistic creation (*Research Project*)
- Reflect on this work as an outcome of their liberal arts education (*Research Project, Assignments*)
- Effectively communicate ideas orally (*Research Project, Lab Meetings, Article Discussions*)
- Effectively communicate ideas visually (*Research Project, Lab Meetings*)
- Effectively communicate ideas in writing (*Research Project and Related Assignments*)
- Discern the ethical dimensions of the production and acquisition of knowledge within disciplines (*Research Project, Article Discussions*)
- Effectively seek and employ information to achieve academic goals (*Research Project*)

Course Objectives

1. Demonstrate the ability to engage in independent inquiry in the field of computer science
2. Apply current and critical thinking in a focused area of study
3. Reflect on the context of their independent inquiry
4. Reflect on this work as an outcome of a liberal arts education
5. Learn to write, communicate, and present research ideas and results in computer science.

Attendance: Attendance is required. Missing one class without an official excuse will result in 1% deduction from your final grade (up to 5%). In addition, exercises may be assigned and collected during class.

Online discussion: We will use Piazza (<https://piazza.com>) as an online discussion and question and answer forum in this course. Shortly after the beginning of the semester, you will receive an e-mail with registration instructions sent to your Eastern e-mail address. Piazza allows for students to post and answer questions, anonymously if desired. The class benefits by seeing questions asked by other students (who often have the same questions as you) and by contributing answers. As the instructor, I will answer questions and can endorse correct student answers as well. For these reasons, all non-personal (e.g., not grade-related) questions should be posted to Piazza rather than e-mailed to me. In addition, you will use Piazza to ask your fellow students questions about their projects.

Course Assignments and Grading

Assignment	Due Date*	% of grade
Bio and Potential Topic	9/19/16	5%
Article Critique	9/23/16	10%
Research Proposal	10/07/16	10%
Outline and Annotated Bibliography	10/28/16	10%
Lab Meeting / Article Discussion	varies	5%
Research Paper – Rough Draft	11/18/16	10%
Research Presentation	varies	15%
Research Paper – Final Draft	12/16/16	10%
Additional Assignments	-	15%
Participation and online discussion	-	5%
Class Attendance	-	5%

*Due dates are tentative and subject to change

Grading Scale

93-100: **A** 90-92: **A-**
87-89: **B+** 83-86: **B** 80-82: **B-**
77-79: **C+** 73-76: **C** 70-72: **C-**
65-69: **D+** 60-64: **D** 59 and below: **F**

Academic Honesty

You are encouraged to discuss assignments and your research topic with one another. However, copying work from another student (unless otherwise specified) and *plagiarism* is *cheating* and this will not be tolerated. A student found cheating or plagiarizing will automatically receive a grade of “F” on the assignment and will be reported to the department head with further potential consequences.

General statement: Students should read and understand Eastern’s Academic Misconduct Policy, which can be found in the Eastern Student Handbook at <http://ecsu-svkb2.easternct.edu/index.php?View=entry&EntryID=307>. Students are expected to take personal responsibility for their intellectual work and to respect and acknowledge the ideas of others. Academic honesty means doing one’s own work and giving proper credit to others whose work and thought are drawn upon. It is the responsibility of each student to become familiar with what constitutes academic dishonesty and plagiarism, and to avoid all forms of cheating and plagiarism. Students may not engage in any form of academic misconduct, and are responsible for learning how to present the ideas of others in their own work, and avoid all other forms of academic misconduct. For current documentation practices, consult the instructor or a style manual (e.g., APA, MLA). All violations will be handled under the procedures established in the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Classroom civility

Cell phones are not appropriate in class and must be turned off or set to vibrate and stored off of the class desk. In general, follow the Golden Rule and treat others with respect and the way you want to be treated.

Special Accommodations

Eastern Connecticut State University is committed to following the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you are a student with a disability (or think you may have a disability), and require adaptations or accommodations, or assistance evacuating a building in the case of an emergency, please contact the Office of AccessAbility Services (OAS) at 860-465-0189 to discuss your request further. Any student registered with the OAS should contact the instructor as soon as possible for assistance with classroom accommodations. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and must be communicated through a Letter of Accommodation which is drafted by the OAS.

***Tentative course schedule**

Week #	Week of	Topic	Major Assignments
1	8/29/16	Introduction to Research, Research in Computer Science, Computer Science Journals	
2	9/5/16	<i>Labor Day – No Class Monday</i>	Bio and Potential Topic (Due: 9/9/16) Article Discussion (9/9/16)
		Three Paradigms of CS	
3	9/12/16	Experimental and Design Considerations	Article Discussion (9/16/16)
4	9/19/16	Writing a Research Proposal	Article Critique (Due: 9/23/16)
5	9/26/16	Lab Meetings and Project Discussion	
6	10/3/16	Avoiding Plagiarism, Literature Review and Annotated Bibliographies	Research Proposal (Due: 10/7/16)
7	10/10/16	Student Project Meetings	
8	10/17/16	Student Project Meetings	
9	10/24/16	Writing a Research Paper, Using LaTeX	Outline and Annotated Bibliography (Due: 10/28/16)
10	10/31/16	How to Give Academic Presentations	
11	11/7/16	Lab Meetings and Project Discussion	
12	11/14/16	Discussion of Selected Research Papers	Rough Draft (Due: 11/18/16)
13	11/21/16	Cover letters and resumes	
		<i>Thanksgiving – no class Friday</i>	
14	11/28/16	Student Presentations	
15	12/5/16	Student Presentations	Final Paper (Due: 12/16/16)

***This is a tentative schedule and is subject to change**