



University of Pittsburgh

CS 1900/1950 Introduction

Course Requirements and Logistics

School of Computing and Information
Department of Computer Science





About the Instructor

■ Wonsun Ahn

- First name is pronounced *one-sun*
- Or you can just call me Dr. Ahn (rhymes with *naan*)

■ Industry Experience

- Software engineer, field engineer, technical lead, manager
- Bluebird Corporation (70-person startup company)
 - Manufactures industrial hand-held devices from top to bottom
 - Me: Built software stack based on Windows Embedded
- IBM Research (thousands of people)
 - Does next-gen stuff like carbon nanotubes, quantum computers
 - Me: Designed supercomputers for ease of parallel programming



Course Requirements

- Attend each class (2 or less unexcused absences)
- Give a presentation on your work to your peers
- Do peer reviews of each other's talks on TopHat
- Write a final paper
- (CS 1950 only) send regular progress reports

Your talk is consumed by your peers

UNIVERSITY OF





Your talk is consumed by your peers

1. You have experience worth sharing with your peers
 - You worked on unique topics, ideas, products
 - You worked for a unique organization
- Could be ...
 - A small local company that is doing cool things:
What is unique about working in that company?
 - A new interesting job category:
How does it compare to SW developer? Did you like it?
 - Software development methodology:
How did you feel about it? Did it increase productivity?
 - Challenges you faced (technical, interpersonal, organizational):
How you did you resolved them? What did you learn?



Your talk is consumed by your peers

2. To gain practice in giving a technical talk
 - Learn how to structure your ideas
 - Learn how to design slides effectively
 - Learn how to deliver your ideas impactfully
3. **NOT** to report on your internship to your instructor
 - That purpose is already fulfilled by your final report



Before your presentation date

- Submit all slides to Canvas by **Thursday midnight**
 - Preferred format: PDF (preferred), Powerpoint
 - Submit to the “Presentation Slides” link
 - Put title, name, and project on cover page
(So your friends know who you are and where you worked)
 - Number your slides

- Practice, practice, practice



On the day of your presentation

- We'll have 8~9 presentation sessions per day
 - 5-minute talk
 - Q & A on TopHat Q & A section for each presenter
- Please DO NOT be late to class!
 - Presenters, please come 10 minutes early to set up
- Designated front row for presenters
 - Presenters will sit in the order of their presentations
- Slides will be stored in order on in-class computer
 - At end of talk, please close your slides and open next slides



Peer Review Logistics

- Submit TopHat answers by **Sunday midnight**
 - Give scores for Content, Organization, and Delivery
 - Freeform comments on the Feedback section



You can be honest with your review

- Scores and feedback are **anonymous**
 - Only score averages will be posted to Canvas for presenter
 - Feedback is immediately visible, but names are hidden
- Scores and feedback do **not impact final grade**
- For top scorer, a prize is planned. Some ideas:
 - Certificate on Pitt letterhead congratulating achievement
 - Post recording to official Pitt CS YouTube channel
 - Get Panera or Starbucks to sponsor a gift card



But be constructive with your review

- Don't judge presenter on the work done
 - Judge presenter on how the work was presented
- Positive comments are as valuable as “negative” ones
 - Important thing is to be specific with either
 - “I loved your talk” is not helpful beyond giving a warm feeling
- A constructive comment does not:
 - Humiliate your peer
 - Complain about how much time was wasted listening
 - Use wording that triggers an emotional response



Final paper is consumed by instructor

■ What I will be looking for:

1. Technical work commensurate to a capstone was done
2. Well organized paper with sections and subsections
 - Goals, implementation, and outcomes are clearly stated
 - Each section, paragraph, and sentence has clear focus
3. Whether you had any insurmountable difficulties
 - Purpose is to compile a “blacklist” for advising future students

■ For details, refer to:

https://wonsunahn.github.io/Capstone_Fall2021/final_paper



TODO Action Items

- Please contact me if you are willing to consider postponing CS 1900 to Spring 2022
 - Please contact me by the end of the week

- Talk to your supervisor about what you can publicize
 - Any intellectual property issues?
 - Any confidentiality issues?
 - Note: you are not expected to publicize code 😊
 - If your organization has red tape that you must go through, please start the process asap and let me know of the issue