



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*)

■ Research Interest

- Computer architecture, Compilers, Quantum computing



Course Requirements

- Attend each class (3 strikes and you are out)
- Write a final paper on your work to the instructor
- Give a presentation on your work to your peers
- Do peer reviews of each other's talks on TopHat
- (CS 1950 only) send regular progress reports



Your 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_Fall2023/final_paper

Your talk is consumed by your peers





Why give a talk in front of my peers?

1. To share experience with your peers
 - You worked on unique topics, ideas, products
 - You worked for a unique organization
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



Any experience is worth sharing

- Your experiences may include...
 - 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 resolve them? What did you learn?
- Bad experiences are also worth learning from:
What would you do differently next time?



Before presentation date

- Submit all slides to Canvas by **Thursday 9 PM**
 - Preferred format: Powerpoint, PDF
 - 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
- Your slides will be ready for you next day on TopHat
- Practice out loud and time yourself



During Presentation

- 5 talks per day. $50 / 5 = 10$ minutes per talk.
- 8 minutes: Presentation talk
 - Speaker: Present on TopHat using instructor's laptop
(If using your own laptop, let me know ahead of time)
 - Leave 2 minutes in the end for Q&A
(If out of time, use Canvas Discussions, addressing speaker)
- 2 minutes: Intermission
 - Current speaker: Return to seat, answer Q&A on Canvas
 - Next speaker: Immediately step up to podium
 - Audience: Take notes for peer reviews (due midnight)
- **Keep your own time** using your cell phone
 - I have to cut you off at 8 minutes (with no warning)



After Presentation

■ Audience:

- Submit TopHat review by **midnight**, same day
 - Give scores for Content, Organization, and Delivery
 - Freeform comments on the Feedback section
- Ask lingering questions on Canvas Discussions by midnight

■ Speaker:

- Answer Canvas Discussions Q&A
- Submit Final Paper by **following Friday before class**



You can be honest with your review

- Scores and feedback are **anonymous**
 - Only score averages will be posted to TopHat for presenter
 - Feedback is immediately visible, but names are hidden
- Scores and feedback do **not impact final grade**
- For 3 top scorers, there will be cash prizes:
 - 1st place - \$100, 2nd place - \$50, 3rd place - \$25
 - Deposited into your PittFund\$Me account



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



TODO Action Item

- Make sure you are enrolled in TopHat
- Do the TopHat survey by tonight
- 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 any red tape, please start the process asap and let me know