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

1. Attend each class (3 absences results in fail)
2. Write a final paper on your work to the instructor
3. Give a presentation on your work to your peers
4. Do peer reviews of each other's talks on TopHat
5. (CS 1950) submit progress reports to Canvas Experiential Learning Hub

■ You need to fulfill all of the above to pass this class

■ Please refer to course webpage for details: https://wonsunahn.github.io/Capstone_Fall2025/CS1900_1950/

Your paper is consumed by instructor

- **What I will be looking for:**

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

- There is a link to a template (and more) on this URL:
  https://wonsunahn.github.io/Capstone_Fall2025/final_paper

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 that your friends know who you are and where you worked
  - Put company or project logo/name in slide template
    - To remind the audience where you worked throughout the talk

- **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.

- 5 minutes: Presentation talk
  - Speaker: Present on TopHat using instructor's laptop (If using your own laptop, let me know ahead of time)
- 3 minutes: Q & A
- 2 minutes: Intermission
  - Switch speakers, audience completes peer feedback

- Keep your own time using your cell phone
  - I will cut you off if you go over 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

- **Speaker:**
  - Submit Final Paper by **following Friday by midnight**

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 feedback is as valuable as constructive feedback
  - Remember most are new to public speaking; be encouraging!
  - Remember that constructive is not the same as negative.

- Be specific with your feedback
  - Regardless of whether it is positive or constructive
  - Instead of "I loved it" say "I loved how engaging you were"

TODO Action Item

- Make sure you are enrolled in TopHat

- Do the TopHat survey by this weekend

- 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