



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

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/](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](https://wonsunahn.github.io/Capstone_Fall2025/final_paper)



Your talk is consumed by your peers

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# 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:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place - \$100, 2<sup>nd</sup> place - \$50, 3<sup>rd</sup> place - \$25
  - Deposited into your PittFund\$Me account



# Peer Review Components

## ■ Content Score (1-5)

- How much thought was put into providing content of value.
- NOT a score of how productive or fun the internship was.

## ■ Organization Score (1-5)

- How well organized the talk was.
- Well-focused slides / well-visualized info / good flow

## ■ Delivery Score (1-5)

- How good was the verbal delivery.
- Pacing / articulation / engagement / demeanor

## ■ Feedback comment

- Be specific, regardless of whether it is positive or constructive



# 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