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Fall 2015

CSCI 3090

Farjana Z. Eishita
University of New Orleans

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CSCI 3090.001
Instructor: Farjana Z. Eishita

Undergraduate Seminar
Spring 2015

Preliminary Remark:

Welcome to CSCI 3090, "Undergraduate Seminar." This course allows students enrolled in it to experience the process of preparing for an oral presentation on a relevant topic in the computing field. Students are expected to select and research their own presentations, which should be a current topic in computer science research literature.

Catalog Description:

A seminar with topics presented by students, faculty, and guests. Students registering for the course must normally make a presentation to satisfy credit requirements. May be repeated for credit.

Prerequisites:

CSCI 2125 and any 4000-level CSCI course

Text:

Gallo, Carmine. *The Presentation Secrets of Steve Jobs : How to Be Insanely Great in Front of Any Audience*. McGraw-Hill, 2009. ISBN-13: 9780071636087. The textbook was ordered in advance and should be available in the bookstore. The following links are provided for those who may not be able to avail of the bookstore's services:
    Amazon.com page for the Gallo text
    Barnes & Noble page for the Gallo text
    BestBookBuy page for the Gallo text
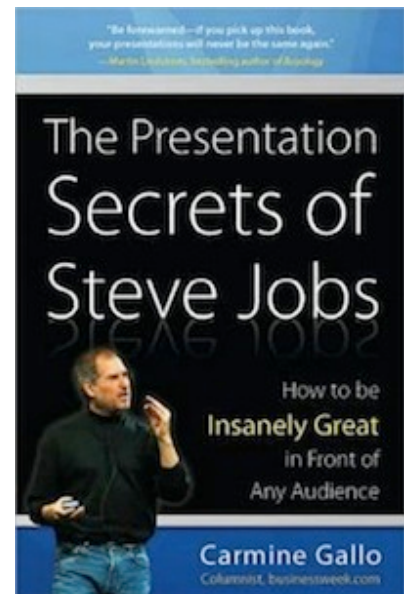
Course Objectives:

At the conclusion of this course, the successful student should be able to:

1. Explore an advanced topic in computer science in sufficient depth.
2. Prepare a formal oral presentation about the topic.
3. Present the topic using standard audio-visual aids.
4. Write a journal style paper that presents the results of the topic of research.
5. Discuss and critique presentations by peers to clarify, improve, and impart one's knowledge.

Student Learning Outcome:

- The course will reflect higher level cognitive skills at the application and analysis levels
- Students will be able to prepare formal oral presentation
- Students will be able to represent their thought using standard audio-visual aid
- Students will prepare public speaking presentations
- Students will prepare technical report

Course Structure and Schedule:

The early meetings of CSCI 3090 will be spent on discussing what constitutes good presentation techniques by discussing the content of the required textbook and viewing sample talks and critiquing them. The "deliverables" will be presented and deadlines set for them. Among these are the selection of a presentation topics, development of sources for the presentation, writing of a paper on the chosen topic, preparation of the oral presentation itself, and finally delivery of the presentation. The following outlines the schedule for the semester:

Date(s)	Agenda
Aug. 19	Administrivia
Aug. 26	Discussion of textbook
Sep. 2 – Sep. 30	Viewing and critique of sample presentations
Sep. 15	Topic due via Moodle submission
Sep. 20	Bibliography due via Moodle submission
Sep. 30	Outline due via Moodle submission
Oct. 7 – Nov. 26	Student presentations
Dec 2	Wrap-up Session/ Paper due via Moodle submission

Presentation Topics:

Any topic that is current and relevant in computer science research literature would normally be allowed. However, the instructor reserves the right to refuse any topic that is not deemed to address the appropriate level of the target audience (upper-level collegiate students). Students are encouraged to select topics that interest them in order to motivate the research, compilation, and presentation of their own seminars.

Office Hours:

My office is in MATH 341. I will be available at the following times:

Monday- 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 pm
Tuesday- 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 pm
Friday- 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 pm

Other times by appointment only (by e-mail to ezebin@gmail.com, *feishita@uno.edu*).

Grading:

Grades will be based on how well and how timely the preparation for the student's own seminar has been executed. Written progress reports will be a good indication of this. Of course, the presentation will receive the lion's share of the grade. However, attendance is an important factor as well; after all, there are valuable lessons to be learned, not only from the topics of the seminar, but also in how the talks are structured, illustrated, and presented.

The relative weights of these grade components are as follows:

Deliverable	Weight
Attendance	20%
Topic, Bibliography, Outline	10%
Seminar (20 minutes)	40%
Written Report (5–10 pages)	30%
Total	100%

Letter grades will be assigned as:
90 - 100 = A,
80 – 90 = B,
60 – 80 = C,
50 - 60 = D,
0 - 50 = F.

Attendance:

Attendance is a component of the course grade and will therefore be taken at each class meeting.

Students With Special Needs:

We provide here a link to the webpage that contains the University's policy with regards to students with special needs (http://www.ods.uno.edu/index.cfm). As expressed therein, the University pursues two primary objectives: (1) to ensure compliance with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in regard to equal access for qualified students to academic programs; and (2) to uphold the academic integrity of UNO. Part of this policy regulates the accommodative testing services. These accommodations are made available in the ODS Accommodative Testing and Adaptive Technology Center (ATATC), located in the Science Bldg. (SC 1046)

Academic Dishonesty:

Finally, we must call your attention to the University's policies regarding academic dishonesty (http://studentaffairs.uno.edu/pdfs/AcademicDishonestyPolicy.pdf). Academic dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. In particular, it includes "the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing an academic exercise" and "submitting as one's own any academic exercise prepared totally or in part for/by another."
In the event of academic dishonesty, **the student will be assigned a grade of 0** on the exam or exercise, the student will be informed in writing of the action taken, and a copy of this letter will be sent to the Assistant Dean for Special Student Services.