Objectives
The primary objective of this course is to train students to perform independent research under the guidance of a faculty member. The secondary objectives are to provide students the opportunity to sharpen their technical communication skills, broaden the students’ technical backgrounds and awareness of contemporary issues, and to promote research and communication skills by encouraging students to write and submit a formal paper for possible publication in a professional journal or presentation at a technical conference.

Required
G.P.A. above 3.0; completion of all other graduation requirements for the M.S. degree in computer science by the time this seminar class is completed.

Expected Work
Our expectation is that the student will:
- independently propose, research, and complete project
- contribute his/her own knowledge/opinion/result
- report to thesis advisor at least bi-weekly
- participate in class review and discussions of classmates' projects
- complete other assignments deemed appropriate by course instructor

Expected work includes participation in class discussions, formal and informal oral and written project reports, attendance at one professional meeting and related oral and written reports. Students are expected to complete a large-scale, individual project. At the end of the term, the student is expected to submit two copies of a final report with a CD containing the report and any source code generated and to make a formal presentation before the departmental faculty. Students are also expected to complete a poster suitable for a conference presentation and participate in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department end-of-semester poster presentation event. Students are encouraged to submit their project to a peer-reviewed conference or workshop.

This is an interactive class, and students are expected to give meaningful, constructive criticism of classmates’ work. Students are expected to actively participate in class discussions and activities and to contribute to the quality of class discussions and activities.

Oral presentations should use PowerPoint slides or similar technology. A 4-up paper copy in landscape layout of each presentation should be given to the instructor prior to each oral presentation. An example of this layout is shown below.
Exams
The final exam consists of an oral report before the faculty of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

Text and Required Materials

Useful References

Grading
Your final grade will be weighted as follows:

- Success of student project and technical content of final written report ............. 50%
- Progress and participation ........................................................................................................ 25%
- Final oral presentation .............................................................................................................. 25%

The first two are evaluated by the instructor and project advisor; the third is evaluated by all attending departmental faculty.

Refer to the course *Overview* and *Guidelines* handouts and the *Teaching Philosophy and Course Policies* handout for additional information.

Office Hours/Contact Points
*Office Hours*: Tuesday, 11 a.m. - noon, 1:30-2:45 p.m., 5:20-6:20 p.m.
- Wednesday, 5:20-6:20 p.m.
- Thursday, 11 a.m. - noon (occasionally cut short for another meeting)

Students are welcome to stop by or make an appointment to see me any time outside standard office hours.

*Office*: Doolan 108
*Phone*: (310) 338-5973
*Internet*: saugust@lmu.edu Put *** CMSI 601 *** in the subject line!!!