

CMSI/ELEC 601 GRADUATE SEMINAR
F2008 – 3.0 units
Monday 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. – D222
Dr. Stephanie E. August -- saugust@lmu.edu
Course Description

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

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 a final report and a CD containing the report and any source code generated and 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.

Oral presentations should use PowerPoint slides.

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

Zobel, Justin. *Writing for Computer Science*. 2nd edition. Springer, 2004. ISBN 978-1852338022

Useful References

David F. Beer, *Writing & speaking in Technology Professions: A Practical Guide*, Wiley-IEEE Press 1991.

Simon L. Peyton Jones, John Hughes, John Launchbury, "How to give a good research talk", *ACM SIGPLAN Notices*, Vol. 28, No 11 November 1993.

Pat Langley, "Advice to *Machine Learning* Authors", *Machine Learning*, pp. 233-237, 1990.

Gregory C. Lapin, "How to write a Winning Scientific Paper", *IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology*, August/September 1994.

Victor O.K. Li, "Hints on Writing Technical Papers and Making Presentations", *IEEE Transactions on Education*, Vol 42, No.2, May 1999.

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Mike Markel, *Writing in the Technical Fields: A Step-by-step Guide for Engineers, Scientists, and Technicians*, Wiley-IEEE Press 1994.

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: Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. - noon,

Tuesday, Wednesday, 5:20-6:20 p.m.

and *by appointment*. Making an appointment is encouraged and allows us both to set aside a time free of distractions in which to meet.

Office: Doolan 108

Phone: (310) 338-5973

Internet: saugust@lmu.edu Put ***** 601 class ***** in the subject line!!!