

CSE 501, Introduction to Graduate Study in CSE

FALL 2014

Tue 3:30-4:50pm, DAVIS 113A

Instructor Information

Atri Rudra (<http://www.cse.buffalo.edu/~atri>)

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- *Office Hours:* By appointment only.

Course Description

This course provide guidance about graduate studies in CSE for incoming Ph.D. students. Registration and attendance are required for all new Ph.D. students. Topics include: academic integrity, the nature of research, good teaching and TA skills, writing skills, and resources available for graduate study in computer science. The course will include appropriate written assignments and oral presentations.

Pre-requisites

This course is open only to Ph.D. students.

Student Learning Outcomes

This course will provide Ph.D. students with an *ability to conduct professional practice*. Please see this link for CSE student learning outcomes

<http://www.eng.buffalo.edu/graduateEducation/middlestates/docs/CSE-Curriculum-Map.xlsx>

Topics

The course will consist of lectures. The following topics are tentatively planned:

- Academic Integrity
- IT resources
- Research skills
- LaTeX, BibTeX

- Public speaking
- Writing skills
- CSE faculty research overviews
- CSE Ph.D. student research overviews
- Student mini project presentations

References

This book is a classic:

Strunk and White, "The Elements of Style", 4th edition.

This book also will be useful:

Higham, Nicholas, "Handbook of Writing for the Mathematical Sciences," 2nd edition.

Piazza

This term we will be using Piazza for class discussion. The system is highly catered to getting you help fast and efficiently from classmates, and the instructor. Rather than emailing questions to the instructor, we encourage you to post your questions on Piazza. If you have any problems or feedback for the developers, email team@piazza.com. To familiarize yourself with the system, look at their help page.

You will need to sign up for Piazza. To do so, go to piazza.com/buffalo/fall2014/cse501

Couple of other points:

1. You can post anonymously but note that you will be anonymous to *students only*. Your identity will be known to us.
2. Please make sure that you use your UB email to sign up– this is to make sure that we can verify your identity if necessary.

Grading Policy

This is a one (1) credit course with an S or U grading.

To get a satisfactory (S) grading you will have to satisfy two components:

- Attendance.
- Mini Project.

See the next few sections for more details on each of the above components.

Attendance

Regular attendance is required. You must come to class, and you must come on time. Please be courteous: The class does not start at 3:40 p.m. It begins at 3:30 p.m. Students who do not attend class regularly risk receiving an unsatisfactory grade in the course. You are not required to attend class on days listed in the university calendar as major religious holy days (although we assume that you practice at most one religion).

Mini Project

Your mini project will consist of a presentation on a technical topic (related to CSE) of your choice and will evaluate the student learning outcome of the ability of conduct professional practice.

Your presentation will be for **five minutes** and should be on your chosen CSE technical topic. The presentations will be on the last two lectures, i.e. **Tuesday, November 25** and **Tuesday, December 2**. The presentations slots will be allotted on a first-come-first-serve basis. To “book” your slot, please email the instructor.

Incompletes

A grade of “I” will not in general be given. This is reserved for the rare circumstance that prevents a student from completing the work in the course. University and Department policy dictates that an “I” can be given only if both of the following conditions are met: (i) Only a small amount of work remains, such as the final exam and one or two assignments, and (ii) the student has a passing average in the work completed. In such a circumstance, the student will be given instructions and a deadline for completing the work, which is usually no more than 30 days past the end of the semester. Here is a link to the university policy on incomplete: <http://undergrad-catalog.buffalo.edu/policies/grading/explanation.shtml#incomplete>.

Incompletes cannot be given as a shelter for poor grades. It is the student’s responsibility to resign from the course in a timely manner if doing poorly. The last day to resign with a grade of “R” is November 7, 2014.

Disabilities

If you have a diagnosed disability (physical, learning, or psychological) that will make it difficult for you to carry out the course work as outlined, or that requires accommodations such as recruiting note-takers, readers, or extended time on exams or assignments, you must consult with the Office of Disability Services (25 Capen Hall, Tel: 645-2608, TTY: 645-2616, Fax: 645-3116, <http://www.student-affairs.buffalo.edu/ods/>).

You must advise your instructor during the first two weeks of the course so that we may review possible arrangements for reasonable accommodations.

Academic Honesty

The Department’s policy statement is available at

<http://www.cse.buffalo.edu/shared/policies/academic.php>

All of the work that you hand in for this class must be the result of your own independent effort. All work that you claim to be yours must be yours.

Suggestions or Comments?

We would be happy to get feedback from you. You can either

- Talk/send email to the instructor, or
- Use Piazza.