

CS 463: Senior Seminar
Syllabus

Fall 2003
Class meets Wednesdays 5:00-6:50 pm
In 8-48 (CS conference room)
Office hours: by appointment

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Objectives of the course:

- ❑ Make final preparations for a career in Computer Science
- ❑ Develop and apply skills in oral and written communication
- ❑ Gain experience in reading and understanding technical articles
- ❑ Develop an appreciation for the ethical and social issues associated with computing
- ❑ Exchange ideas with other seminar participants, applying critical thinking skills

Course organization:

- ❑ Student presentations will be scheduled during weeks 3-10 and final exam week.
- ❑ Each student will be responsible for planning one 25-to-30-minute segment during the course of the quarter.
- ❑ Class meetings will generally consist of two presentations followed by a discussion session.
- ❑ Each student will be expected to participate actively in class discussions.
- ❑ Each student will evaluate the presentations of the other seminar students.
- ❑ There will be a number of Writing Assignments.

Grading criteria: The course grade will be based on:

Presentation:	40%
Participation:	20%
Evaluation:	20%
Writing Assignments:	20%

Attendance at the seminar is mandatory. The highest grade that can be earned if you are absent once is B; the highest grade that can be earned if you miss two class meetings is C; you cannot receive a passing grade if you miss more than two class meetings. The attendance criterion overrides the grading breakdown. Being on time to class is also expected.

The Presentation:

You are responsible for planning a 30-to-45-minute segment of the course. Your topic **must** be technical in nature and relate to computing; it **may** relate to the course theme: ethical, social, and economic implications of computing. Plan your presentation for 25-30 minutes. A goal of your presentation is to stimulate discussion. Up to 20 minutes for discussion will be allowed after your presentation. Some topics are suggested at ([Sample Topics](#)) and procedures for adding the course are available at ([Signing Up](#)). The presentation is further described below.

Participation:

As a participant in the seminar you will be expected to consider the material presented thoughtfully and to contribute to discussions. The quantity and the quality of your contributions will be taken into consideration. *In order to receive an A or B in the seminar you must participate orally in discussions.* You will receive a list of references from each speaker in advance of their presentation. This will allow you to prepare some questions or ideas for discussion.

Evaluation of Presentations:

You will be asked to evaluate each of the other students' presentations. You will complete a form that asks how well the presenter met the objectives of the presentation assignment, how interesting you found the presentation, etc. You will be expected to answer each of the questions thoughtfully. Evaluation forms can be turned in at the end of the class meeting, or filled out online no later than the Friday following the presentation.

Writing:

Writing assignments must be typed. The writing assignments will be graded for mechanical quality (grammar, spelling, paragraph structure) as well as content. On the first writing assignment you will be allowed to rewrite your paper until you are satisfied with its quality. I will provide feedback on each submission you make. On the other two assignments, you will be expected to show that you learned from the first assignment and turn in a high-quality paper that I will read and grade just once. Due dates will be provided with the writing assignments. You are expected to submit writing assignments on time, either by email or hardcopy.

Academic Integrity:

The University has adopted a policy on academic integrity. The Cal Poly catalog defines academic dishonesty and describes the roles of faculty, staff, and administration in dealing with breaches of academic integrity on page 52. Students are expected to know the policy and to behave ethically and with integrity.

More about the Presentation:

The guidelines for presentation topic selection are: your topic must be technical computer science related and must be one from which at least most of us will learn something new. You *may* present the ethical and/or social aspects. You must at least think about them and be prepared to discuss them. You must support your topic with reference material. You should try to generate interest in your topic and discussion among seminar participants. Topics will all be different and will be approved on a first-come-first-served basis as described in ([Signing Up](#)). Approved descriptions and references lists will be posted on the web no later than Monday, October 6 at 8:00 am.

On the day of your presentation you should bring a handout for each member of the class. The handout should contain either an abstract or an outline of your presentation, and a list of at least five references. At least three references should be recent and reputable professional journals. You must draw the majority of your material from articles, not books.

Note: a course list cs46302@csupomona.edu is set up to allow members of the class to communicate with each other and me. If you want to send a message to all of us, this is the address to use.