Senior Capstone Project

Course Description

Teamwork and formal methods of systems analysis and design are emphasized. Students will develop a major software system for a real-life problem. Students are required to complete a Major Field Assessment Test (MFAT).

Learning Objectives

The course is designed to achieve the following objectives:

- Develop a large software project for a community, university, or private enterprise
- Understand the significance of teamwork in building software systems
- Apply effective project management techniques
- Utilize a variety of techniques to capture and understand user requirements
- Utilize design techniques appropriate to project assigned
- Develop and implement strategic test plans
- Develop user and system documentation
- Conduct formal project presentations with users and peers

Major Course Requirements

- Individual Presentations 10%, schedule is posted on course webpage
- Individual Research Paper 10%
- Team Member Evaluation of Individual Effort 5%
- MFAT Score 5%
- Status Reports and Development Deliverables 25%
- Project Documentation 25%, schedule is posted on course webpage
- Final Product Delivery and Presentations 20%, schedule is posted on course webpage

Recommended Readings


Course Website

http://sci.tamucc.edu/~amahdy/Teaching/Fall14/cosc4354/cosc4354.html
Course Policies

Submitted Work
- Assignments are due at the beginning of the class on the due date. Late submissions will be graded at 50% of the maximum score. Under no circumstances, submissions will be accepted after 24 hours of the due date.
- Assignments must be submitted in a neat computer-generated format. Handwritten submissions will not be accepted.
- Assignments can only be submitted in class; email submissions will be discarded unless instructed otherwise. In case of late submissions, please stop by my office. If I am not available, ask the secretary to date and time your submission and put it in my mailbox.
- Graded work can only be discussed after 48 hours and no later than one week of releasing the scores.
- In case of programming assignments, submissions that do not compile will receive no credit.
- Start working on your assignments early; last day questions that show carelessness will not be responded to.
- It is always recommended to keep your graded work.

Exams and Quizzes
- Exams and quizzes are NOT open-book unless instructed otherwise.
- Not all quizzes times will be announced; pop-up quizzes are likely.
- NO makeup exams or quizzes will be allowed unless I have agreed prior to the exam or quiz time and been provided with official supporting documents.

Major Field Test
All COSC 4354 students MUST participate in the MFAT exam. Students’ scores will be minimally considered for the course grade. However, failure to take the MFAT will result in a failing grade for this course. The Academic Testing Center will administer the MFAT and you should schedule yourself for one of the test days with that office. More information can be found at http://testing.tamucc.edu/major_field_tests/index.html.

Class Participation
Class discussions and information provided in class are considered regular course material; it is your responsibility to take appropriate notes. You are expected to attend lectures and actively participate in class discussions. I will be frequently taking attendance. You are also required to turn off your cell phone and/or pager in class and pay attention to class discussions. Use of laptops and other electronic devices is restricted to taking notes. Unethical behavior will result in final grade deduction or an automatic F.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in an F grade.

Dropping a Class
We hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. November 7th is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Classroom/Professional Behavior
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Grade Appeals
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules website at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html, and the College of Science and Engineering Grade Appeals webpage (http://sci.tamucc.edu/students/GradeAppeal.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the chair or director of the appropriate department or school, the Office of the College of Science and Engineering Dean, or the Office of the Provost.

Disabilities Accommodations
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.
If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Statement of Academic Continuity
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

Announcements
Announcements will be made available in class, on course web page, and/or through email. It is your responsibility to regularly check for announcements.

Syllabus
This syllabus provides a framework for the course format and policies. Changes and/or additions to this syllabus may be made at the instructor’s discretion. Students will be notified with changes.