Research Methods in Computer Science COSC-6393.001
Department of Computing Sciences
Spring 2020

A. COURSE INFORMATION
   Course number/section: COSC-6393.001
   Class meeting time: MWF 9:00-9:50AM
   Class location: CI-128
   Course Website: bb9.tamucc.edu

B. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION
   Instructor: Longzhuang Li
   Office location: CI-323
   Office hours: Mon/Wed 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
                Fri 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
   Telephone: 825-2406
   e-mail: Longzhuang.Li@tamucc.edu
   Appointments: Call me or send me an email

C. COURSE DESCRIPTION
   Catalog Course Description
   This course provides students with a range of experiences in conducting and communicating research. Students will learn major research methods and techniques. Experiences will be gained in all stages of research: reviewing literature, writing a proposal, designing an approach, and reporting results. Critical reading/writing assignments and weekly class discussions on state-of-the-art research in Computer Science will provide students with major research aspects.

D. PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITES
   Prerequisites
   Only Graduate
   Corequisites
   None

E. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S), READINGS AND SUPPLIES
   Optional Textbook(s) or Other References
• Research papers from relevant Journals and Conferences.

Supplies
None

F. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT
Assessment is a process used by instructors to help improve learning. Assessment is essential for effective learning because it provides feedback to both students and instructors. A critical step in this process is making clear the course’s student learning outcomes that describe what students are expected to learn to be successful in the course. The student learning outcomes for this course are listed below. By collecting data and sharing it with students on how well they are accomplishing these learning outcomes students can more efficiently and effectively focus their learning efforts. This information can also help instructors identify challenging areas for students and adjust their teaching approach to facilitate learning.

By the end of this course, students should be able to:
1. Demonstrate understanding of the research fundamentals and ethics
2. Practice surveying a research area and choose a research topic
3. Practice how to write a thesis/project proposal
4. Practice how to effectively communicate research ideas and present research results in oral and written formats
5. Recognize state-of-the-art research in Computer Science

G. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES
This class will mostly employ interactive and independent learning strategies. Students will be engaged in frequent class and office individual discussions. Independent study will include researching state-of-the-art topics in computer science.

H. MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>% of FINAL GRADE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentation (multiple)</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Proposal</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Research Paper</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10</td>
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I. **COURSE CONTENT/SCHEDULE**

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<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
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| 1    | • Introduction to Research Methods  
      • How to read an article?  
      • How to write an article? |             |
| 2    | • Why and how to select a specific research topic  
      • Setting up your thesis goals  
      • How to develop a literature review?  
      • Expected outcomes |             |
| 3    | • Writing using LaTeX  
      • Hands on using Overleaf  
      • Research topic and summary |             |
| 4    | Paper Reading and Proposal Summary | Submit Research Proposal Summary |
| 5    | Selected Paper Presentation |             |
| 6    | Selected Paper Presentation |             |
| 7    | Selected Paper Presentation |             |
| 8    | • Selected Paper Presentation  
      • Discuss different writing deliverables— proposal, thesis, report…etc. | Submit Draft Proposal |
| 9    | Spring Break |             |
| 10   | Student Proposal Presentation |             |
| 11   | Student Proposal Presentation |             |
| 12   | Student Proposal Presentation |             |
| 13   | Student Proposal Presentation |             |
| 14   | Proposal Implementation and Demo |             |
| 15   | Proposal Implementation and Demo | Submit final thesis Proposal |
| 16   | Research Discussion and Follow up |             |

Note: Changes in this course schedule may be necessary and will be announced to the class by the Instructor. The presentations and thesis proposal shown are directly related to the Student Learning Outcomes described in Section F.

J. **COURSE POLICIES**

**Attendance/Tardiness**

The students are expected to come to class on time every day the class meets. Read research papers and prepare slides to be presented before coming to class. Ask
questions of material you do not understand. If I cannot explain the answers to your satisfaction, make an appointment with me to discuss the question. Demonstrate integrity, maturity, and ethical behavior.

**Late Work and Make-up Exams**
Assignments are accepted until MIDNIGHT on the due date. Every homework assignment will list a due date for full credit. Late assignments will lose 10% of the maximum score per day. Makeup exams will not be given under normal circumstances. If you notify me immediately that serious, unavoidable, documentable (e.g., with a letter from your doctor) circumstances have arisen, I will discuss options for replacing the missing grade. (For example, I may allow the grade earned on the comprehensive final to replace the grade for the missed exam.) Excused absences due to school sponsored activities, religious observations, family rituals, etc. should be discussed in advance.

**K. COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

- **Academic Integrity (University)**
  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 a failing grade.

- **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.

- **Statement of Civility**
  Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.
• **Deadline for Dropping a Course with a Grade of W (University)**

I 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 your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course.** 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. Please consult the Academic Calendar ([http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/calendar/](http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/calendar/)) for the last day to drop a course.

• **Grade Appeals (College of Science and Engineering)**

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](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html), and the College of Science and Engineering Grade Appeals webpage at [http://sci.tamucc.edu/students/GradeAppeal.html](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.

• **Disability Services**

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 (361) 825-5816 or visit Disability Services 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.

[http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/](http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/)

• **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.

L. OTHER INFORMATION

• Academic Advising
   The College of Science & Engineering requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. Meetings are by appointment only; advisors do not take walk-ins. Please call or stop by the Advising Center to check availability and schedule an appointment. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Center for Instruction 350 or can be reached at (361) 825-3928.

GENERAL DISCLAIMER

I reserve the right to modify the information, schedule, assignments, deadlines, and course policies in this syllabus if and when necessary. I will announce such changes in a timely manner during regularly scheduled lecture periods.