General Information
COT 4810 - Topics in Computer Science, Spring 2014.
Class: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 2:30 - 3:20 PM, BA1 0126.

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Office Location: HEC 304.

Grader: Anthony Bolton
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Office hours:
Office: The Cave - HEC 305

Class objectives: The rapid pace of the developments in all areas of Computer Science requires the ability to read and analyze critically the technical literature, technical reports, patents, and other sources of information. Equally important is the ability to:

1. Gather relevant information about a topic of interest.

2. Write scientific papers and research proposals if you plan an academic career, or technical reports and proposals if you plan to work for a company.

3. Present in a convincing manner your ideas or summarize the results in an area of interest to an audience of your peers. Many students enrolled in this class will graduate soon thus, the need to develop and test these skills. It is equally important to fully understand the basic tenets of ethics of your profession and the impact of the information technology on our society. These are precisely the objective of this class.

Literature. The Literature document on the class Web site provides links to several classical and survey papers. For example, a student who chooses to make a presentation related to Turing awards could discuss the contribution of one of the recipients of the Turing award. Keep in mind that the presentations must have technical depth.

Class organization. Each student is expected to:

1. Make 2 (two) presentation on topics of his/her choice. Search the literature for the influential papers in the area selected for presentation and read them carefully. Consult the list of areas and topics for presentations suggested for this class. A student involved in undergraduate research is encouraged to select topics close to his/her research area.

   The title of the presentations should be emailed to dcm@cs.ucf.edu, no later than Saturday, the first week of classes; the subject of the Email should be “COT4810-Titles-First.Lastname.”
There are two presentations during a 50 minute session. A presentation should in PowerPoint and 18 – 20 minutes; allow at least 5 minutes for questions. Do not exceed the allotted time of 25 minutes per presentation. The presentation should be Emailed to the grader, before 1 PM the day of the presentation; the subject of the Email should be “COT4810-Presentation 1/2 -First.Lastname.”

2. Each presentation should be accompanied by a paper which expands on the presentation. The paper should be 3-5 pages long and discuss in some depth the topic of the presentation. It could include the drawing/tables/diagrams in your presentation. The paper should be structured as a regular paper submitted to a conference or a journal; it should include:
   - Title, author, and date of the draft.
   - Abstract - a brief description of the contents of the paper (2-3 paragraphs).
   - Introduction - in this section you should introduce the topic of your paper, discuss motivation, and related work.
   - Several sections in which you discuss the problem addressed by the paper, the theoretical foundations, the methodology of the study, the results.
   - Conclusions.
   - Literature

The paper should be Emailed to the grader, before 1 PM the Saturday of the week of the presentation; the subject of the Email should be “COT4810-Paper 1/2 -First.Lastname.”

3. Evaluate each presentation using the attached form. Remember that 20% of your grade is based on the reviews you submit!! The reviews for the 6 (six) presentations of a regular week are due on Monday the following week at 8 AM. They should be sent in a single file to the grader; the subject of the Email should be: “COT 4810. Reviewer’s First.Lastname - Week”.
   - A student can submit a review only if he/she attended the presentation; obviously, the presenter does not review his own presentation.
   - The reviews should follow the format of the attached form and should be objective, brief, and professional. It is important that you provide the presenter with feedback on how s/he can improve!! The grader will summarize the suggestions and comments of all students and Email them to the presenter within a week of the date she receives the reviews; obviously, these comments will not include the id of the reviewer.
   - The grade you get for your reviews of the presentations of your colleagues will only be available at the end of the semester; it will be an average of individual reviews.

4. Write an in-depth paper on ethical issues in Computer Science. This paper should be 5-6 pages long. Some of the issues you may discuss are: plagiarism, property rights, security, how your knowledge could affect the social impact of new technologies, how the abuse of your knowledge could negatively affect the society at large and the research community. The
paper should be Emailed to the grader, no later than Monday March 24, 2014; the subject of the Email should be “COT4810- EthicsPaper -First.Lastname.”

5. Write an in-depth paper on the impact of technological changes and the role of Computer Science. The length of the paper should be 5-6 pages of Word or pdf. Some of the issues you may discuss are: the evolution of technologies in terms of performance, cost, and functionality, the impact of the information revolution on the society, the role of the technology and of the theory, the impact of technology on education, the breathtaking pace of technological developments and its impact on the legal system. The paper should be Emailed to the grader, no later than Monday March 31, 2014; the subject of the Email should be “COT4810- ImpactPaper -First.Lastname.”

Class attendance and grading. The students are strongly encouraged to attend every class and be active. Our policy is simple, based on professional standards: you are welcome to work with anyone else on ideas and understanding, but the writing should be your own and you should carefully acknowledge all contributions of ideas by others, whether from classmates or from papers you have read. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated; when detected they lead to unconditional failure of the class as required by the newly enacted policy at UCF for undergraduate classes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation of the first presentation (average of students reviews)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overview paper for the first presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation of the second presentation (average of students reviews)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overview paper for the second presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reviews and evaluations of other student presentations</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper on ethical issues in Computer Science (CS)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper on the impact of technological changes and the role of CS</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Failure to observe the deadlines for the submission of: (a) presentations; (b) papers; and (c) reviews leads to a penalty of 10 points/day. If you are unable to make the presentation at the scheduled date you should attempt to find another student in the class willing to exchange the date with you; then both of you should Email to the grader the change in date of the presentation. A no show at the time of the scheduled presentation lowers the grade by 10%.

Consult periodically the class Web site for updated info:
http://www.cs.ucf.edu/dcm/Teaching/COT4810-Spring

1Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating: UCF faculty members have a responsibility for your education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to infringements of academic integrity. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, suspension or expulsion from the university, and/or a “Z Designation” on a student’s official transcript indicating academic dishonesty, where the final grade for this course will be preceded by the letter Z. For more information about the Z Designation, see http://z.ucf.edu/.