CSC 5390 - 001  
THESIS WRITING  
Spring 2024

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468-2508

PREREQUISITE:  Admittance into the graduate program.

OFFICE HOURS:  Office hours are at the times below and I will also have a Zoom link given on D2L that will be open during office hours as well.  
M, W 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
I will gladly make appointments for other times.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:  Writing and completion of thesis work.

COURSE INTENT:  Introduces student to academic research under the supervision of student’s thesis director.

ATTENDANCE:  Will have an hour blocked each week dedicated to progress discussion. More hours can be used throughout the week.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES:  Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:  
1. Conduct research into a thesis topic.  
2. Write and present a research paper to be submitted to a conference.

CONTENT:  The following topics with estimated hours spent on each is listed below:  
• Thesis research and paper (45)

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES:  
All program learning outcomes for the degrees can be found here: https://www.sfasu.edu/academics/colleges/sciences-math/computer-science/about/accreditations

CLASS INFORMATION AND POLICIES  
Department of Computer Science, Cole STEM 312, 468-2508

Attendance:  Seating assignments will be made and roll will be taken regularly. Attendance may be taken into consideration for your final grade. If you come to class, you are expected to be present and awake the entire class period unless you have been given permission to leave early. If you are absent from class, please make sure to get notes from a classmate. There will be no smoking, no chewing of tobacco, no eating or drinking, no bare feet, and no cell phone use during class. Cell phones and other electronic communication devices must be turned off during class. Possession of a cell phone or other electronic communication device during an exam will result in an examination grade of zero. No disruptive behavior including offensive language will be tolerated in a computer science facility or related activity. Such behavior may result in administrative removal from class. Only students officially registered for the course and approved assistants may attend class. Please do not walk across the front of the room after the class has started. Students entering the classroom after the lecture has started should take a seat in the back of the room.

Examination Policy:  All class examinations are considered to be a major part of the course work upon which a large part of the course grade depends. There are NO make-up exams! Class examinations will be announced at least two classes prior to the examination. If you have a conflict with another university event, you must contact me well in advance of the examination. In case of an extreme emergency, contact me before the scheduled examination. Failure to do so may result in an examination grade of zero. There are no exemptions for the final examination and no changes in taking the final examination. All students must take the final exam. A zero on the final exam will result in an F in the course. Check the final examination time. If the final examination time is a problem, you need to drop this course. Once the first person has left the room on the day of an examination, no one else will be permitted to begin the exam.

Assignment Policy:  All assignments are due at the announced time on the specified due date. Assignments will not be accepted late. If you have a conflict, please contact me in advance. You should turn in your homework assignments done neatly, clearly, and to the best of your ability. Follow all the instructions given. You will lose points for failure to follow instructions. Any work turned in to my box should be dated
and timed by the CSC department staff. Please ask nicely. **DO NOT** slide any work under my office door or under the door to the Computer Science offices. **PLEASE NOTE:** You may be given assignments during the last five class days of the semester.

**Software Policy:** Disciplinary action will be taken against individuals who perform unauthorized duplication of software or who are involved in the unauthorized use of duplicated software. Such action may make it impossible for you to successfully complete this course.

**Computer Laboratory Usage:** Students utilizing equipment in university computing laboratories are expected to read and abide by all posted policies for the laboratories. Please note that no children and no pets are permitted in university computing laboratories.

**Drop Policy (Univ.):** The official university add/drop policy is located at: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/add_drop.asp. If you have questions concerning registration, add/drop or the withdraw process, contact the Registrar at (936) 468-2501 or E-mail: REGISTRAR@SFASU.EDU. The Registrar is located on the 2nd floor of the Rusk building.

**Computer Account Policy:** All assignments that require the use of the University Computer must be done under the computer account that is assigned to you in this class. **You should NOT do other class assignments in this account, and you should NOT do assignments from this class in other accounts.** Failure to abide by the above statements will mean that you will received a grade of F in this course.

**Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit. All instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to Office of the Dean of the student’s major. This report shall be made part of the student’s record and shall remain on file with the Dean’s office for at least four years. Instances of academic dishonesty may also be reported to the University Committee on Academic Integrity. A student who wishes to appeal decisions related to academic integrity follows procedures outlined in University policy A-9.1. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

If in my judgment an instance of academic dishonesty on an examination has occurred, a grade of zero will be assigned as the examination grade and a minimum of one (1) letter grade will be lost in the course grade. **Possession of a cell phone or other electronic communication device during an exam will result in an examination grade of zero.** A course grade of F may be assigned depending on the situation. A student found cheating on an examination may not drop the course. If in my judgment a student is found cheating **on any part** of a homework assignment or quiz, the student will receive negative points equal to the value of the entire homework/quiz. A negative grade will not be replaced by any possible bonus assignment. **I consider the person who did the work (homework, quiz, test) and the person copying the work as both cheating.** A recurrence of this by any individual will result in a grade of F in the course. **DO YOUR OWN WORK!!!!!** Do **NOT** show your code to other students!!!

**Artificial Intelligence Fair-Use Policy:** The emergence of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT) has sparked interest among many students in our discipline. The use of these tools for brainstorming ideas, exploring possible responses to questions or problems, and creative engagement with the materials may be useful for you as you craft responses to class assignments. While there is no substitute for working directly with people or myself, the potential for generative AI tools to provide automatic feedback, aid in internet search, provide suggestive study materials, and other assistive technology is developing. While using AI tools to aid in synthesizing information, all work submitted must be your own work. Any AI generated information submitted will be considered plagiarism.

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)**
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Acceptable Student Behavior**
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic, or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

**Identification:** Valid student I.D. cards must be presented on each examination day. (No I.D...No exam...Grade of zero)
Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability-related accommodations, alternate formats, and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Mental Health and Wellness

SFA values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students' mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
SFA Counseling Service www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
Health and Wellness Hub (corner of E. College and Raguet)
936.468.2401

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
Human Services, Room 202 936.468.1041

Crisis Resources:
Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741