

CMPSC 580
Topics and Research Methods in Computer Science
Spring 2015

Assignment 25
Final Project
Due Friday, 1 May by 5:00 pm

As the final assignment for this course, you must complete a project consisting of a poster suitable for presentation during a department-wide poster session, a five to seven minute in-class presentation that describes your proposed research, and a ten page final research proposal.

The department-wide poster session will take place on Friday, 24 April, 2015 during the normally scheduled laboratory session. Using technical diagrams, screen shots, equations, formal statements of algorithms, and other appropriate components, you are responsible for presenting a poster that clearly explains your idea for senior thesis research. Additionally, your poster should correctly use color and layout to ensure that the idea is presented in a clear and aesthetically pleasing manner.

While the course instructors will give you a grade for your poster and your participation in the poster session, all students in the Department of Computer Science will be invited to provide you with written and oral feedback about both your proposed work and the poster itself. By 9 am on the morning of the poster session, please send a PDF of your poster—that was programmed in \LaTeX —to the course instructor so that it can be printed at a size suitable for display. You should now use all feedback from the poster session to refine and extend your final project presentation and proposal. Please see the course instructor if you have any questions about the poster session.

The final project presentations will take place in class on Tuesday, 28 April, 2015. Each student is required to give a short presentation about the topic that they plan to investigate for their senior thesis. Leveraging the content that you developed for your poster presentation, your final project presentation should also be programmed in \LaTeX and use the same aforementioned kinds of items (e.g., technical diagrams and formation statements of algorithms). However, the presentation is different from the poster because it can use graphical overlays to progressively reveal portions of a technical diagram or highlight certain lines of an algorithm. Overall, you should ensure that your final presentation represents your best technical talk for the semester. Beyond giving a presentation, each student is responsible for answering questions posed by both the course instructor and the other students in the course. You may use all of the feedback from this session to improve your final project proposal. Please see the course instructor if you have questions about the presentation.

You should write your final proposal using the same \LaTeX templates that you have used for the previous module proposals. This proposal should describe the topic that you plan to investigate for your senior thesis. Students are encouraged, although not required, to reuse content from their module proposals as they prepare their final proposal. If you do incorporate material from a previous proposal into your final proposal, then please indicate what content was reused at the end of your document. The submitted version of your final proposal should take into account the feedback that you received during both the poster session and your final presentation. In addition to having no mistakes in spelling or grammar, your final proposal should feature all of the key elements of good writing in computer science (e.g., diagrams, graphs, equations, algorithms, and screen shots). Please see the course instructor if you have any questions about this part of the assignment.