
CIS 400 Senior Design

Fall 2008

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Goals and Objectives

- Defining a project
 - Conducting Research
 - Presenting your ideas and results
 - Producing and Executing a work plan
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Course Schedule CIS 400

■ Project Proposal

- 3 -7 pages (~20% of grade)
- Due by Tuesday Sept 30 by 5PM
 - Electronic form – PDF to blackboard **AND** hardcopy
- Proposal Meetings: Oct 1 – Oct 8

■ Progress Report

- 10-15 pages (~80% of grade)
 - Due by Thursday Dec 4
 - Progress Meetings: Dec 8 – Dec 12
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Tentative Course Schedule

CIS 401

- Project progress presentations
 - Judgment Day
 - End of semester demo and poster presentation
 - Prizes awarded to outstanding projects
 - Panel of external judges
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To Do Fall Semester

- Select a topic
 - Select a team
 - Find a faculty advisor
 - Turn in Project Proposal by Sept 30
 - Meet with me for Project Review
 - Attend **mandatory** information resources session (date TBA)
 - Turn in Project Progress Report by Dec 4
 - Meet with me for Project Review
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Course Mechanics

- Office hours:
 - 4:15-5:15 pm TTh and also by email appointment
 - Project proposals handed in Levine 311 to Ms. Marissa Mele
 - Sign up schedule proposal review meetings
 - TA: Andrew West
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Course Web Page

- www.seas.upenn.edu/~cis400
- Includes some project suggestions and links to past project descriptions



Characteristics of a good project

- The problem is interesting
 - You are aware of prior work and can explain why your project is better/different
 - You have a clear idea of what your end result will be
 - You understand what's required in terms of skills, personnel, equipment, tools, and time
 - Grading Rubric available online
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Project Proposal Format

- ***Title***
 - ***Project Name, participants, faculty advisor***
 - ***Abstract***
 - ***1-2 paragraph description of the project including a clear description of what your software system will eventually do***
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Project Proposal Format

- ***Related Work (1 – 2 pages)***
 - ***Summarize related research, products and systems***
 - ***Explain why the proposed system is better/different from what already exists***
 - ***Multiple information sources:***
 - ***Patents, Textbooks, Scholarly articles, tech reports, web sites***
 - ***Technical Approach (2 pages approx)***
 - ***Explain how your system will work***
 - ***Provide a block diagram of major components if applicable***
 - ***Explain the principal technical challenges***
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Project Proposal Format

■ ***Resources Required***

- ***Which computers will you use, what hardware and software tools are required what new textbooks and reference material***

■ ***Milestones/Timetable***

- ***List the major tasks that you will need to perform and when you expect to do them***
- ***Must indicate tangible deliverables to be demonstrated at the end of fall and spring semesters***

■ ***References***

- ***List the web sites, textbooks articles etc that you consulted during the preparation of your proposal***
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Project Progress Report

- Similar format to Project Proposal but Technical approach section will be expanded
 - Description of work done to date
 - Results of implementing prototype
 - Detailed plan for work to be done next semester
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Grading Considerations

- Is it clear what the project is about?
 - Have you done sufficient research to identify related projects, products and relevant resources?
 - Do you have a plausible technical approach and a clear idea of the challenges?
 - Do you have a clear idea of what it will take to get the project done, time, equipment tools personnel etc.?
 - Is the project innovative?
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Plagiarism Policy

- All reports and code turned in are expected to be original work.
 - Refer to the web site for a detailed plagiarism policy
 - Violations of the policy will be viewed as a serious breach of Academic Ethics and may result in a trip to the OSC
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