



**Basic Info:**

- Meeting times: Tuesday/Thursday 3:30 pm
- The MHP

**Instructor:**

- Betsy Williams Sanders
  - Office: Olendorf 419
  - Office Phone: 901.843.3791
  - Email\*: [sandersb@rhodes.edu](mailto:sandersb@rhodes.edu)

**Office Hours:**

- **Monday/Wednesday 1:30-3:00**
- By appointment

**Book and Resources:**

- There are no books that you are responsible for purchasing.
- If you find that you need a resource that is not available online or in the library, come talk with me about it; I have access to a small amount of funding that can be used to purchase books/software/equipment for this course.
- It will be helpful to search the web for topics that you need further information on.
- If there is a journal article or other paper that you are interested in reading and cannot access, please let me know and I will see if I can make it available to you.
- I encourage you to stop by my office at any time.
- You are welcome to use code that other people have posted online. However, you must make sure that you acknowledge the authors by commenting in the program and make it CLEAR which portion of the code was incorporated into your program.

**Prerequisites:**

- The course is for senior Computer Science majors.

**Course Description:**

- The Senior Seminar is the culmination of the Computer Science major's experience in the department. In this class, we will work together to solve a research question and contribute to the field of computer science.
- Your research problem was written and defined last semester as part of last semester's Senior Seminar.
- One of primary goals of this seminar is to expose you to state-of-the-art research in computer science. It also aims at developing a deeper understanding of the software design-process: detailing a well-defined problem, proposing and implementing a solution, and testing that solution. You should gain an appreciation of what it is like to work with other people to solve a larger problem.
- Senior Seminar is an integrative course. It draws on all of the courses that you have had so far, including both general education and major courses.
- Senior Seminar is a seminar. We each come to each class prepared to contribute what we have learned. Each individual will provide an update of what they have been working on and what they intend to do for the next week.
- You will be expected to work together as a group outside of this class time and come up with ways of solving problems on your own. Each project should be updated using version control software.

- At the end of the semester, you will present your work at Senior Research Day.

### **Weekly Assignments/Participation:**

- Since you are working together on a large project, I will want to see weekly updates of the project. These will count as your “assignments”.
- Each team has a project manager that is responsible for keeping the project “on-task”.
- Each person is **REQUIRED** to keep a log of the work they have been doing for the project in a google document. The project manager is responsible for creating the document and sharing it with the team members. They are also in charge of how work hours are to be logged in the document. EACH team member **MUST log 10 hours of work per week** (except spring break). The time must be well-documented according to how it was spent. That is, for any time spent working on the program you must explain what you were doing. It is not acceptable to be surfing the net (on an unrelated topic), facebooking, talking on the phone, texting, etc. during your work period. You may count class time as part of these 10 hours.
- During class time, you are required to stay for the entire time period so that you can work with your group.
- The project manager is responsible for making sure that everyone adheres to the timeline also outlined in your project proposal. They are also responsible for making changes to the timeline as needed.
- The project manager is responsible for submitting an abstract to URCAS at the due date with the help of team members.
- The project manager is also responsible for submitting and securing IRB approval, if needed.

### **Midterm Presentation:**

- You will each give a 25 minute group presentation regarding what work you have done and what needs to be done by the end of the semester. Part of your grade for this presentation will depend on your progress. More details will be provided in class.
- DATE: Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, in class.

### **Final Written Assignment and Presentation:**

- Each team will give a 30 minute presentation on Thursday April 25<sup>th</sup>, in class
- Each team will give a 12 minute presentation on Friday April 26<sup>th</sup> at URCAS
- Each team will write up their results in a research style paper (as outlined in a document I will provide). It is due Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at midnight.

### **Grade Breakdown:**

- 70% Participation/Weekly work
- 10% Midterm Presentation
- 20 % Final Written Assignment and Presentation

### **Grade Assignments:**

- Grading is based on the below scale:
  - A : [93%, 100%]
  - A- : [90%, 93%]
  - B+ : [87%, 90%]
  - B : [83%, 87%]
  - B- : [80%, 83%]
  - C+ : [77%, 80%]
  - C : [73%, 77%]
  - C - : [70%, 73%]
  - D : [65%, 70%]
  - D- : [60%, 65%]
  - F : [ 0%, 60%]

### **Attendance:**

- Attendance is expected, please let me know if you have specific problems.

**Special Accommodation:**

- If you are in need of special accommodations, please register with the Office of Student Disability Services (<http://www.rhodes.edu/disability>) as soon as possible so that all necessary arrangements can be made.

**Scholastic Behavior**

- Plagiarism, cheating, and similar anti-intellectual behavior are serious violations of academic ethics and will be correspondingly penalized. If you are concerned about a possible violation of this kind, please talk with me. I understand the pressure that students may experience while at Rhodes, and I will try to help as best as I can.
- In this course you are encouraged to look online and use all available resources. However, when you write your final paper, you must site related work.

**Course Outline:**

- The course will cover the following topics (not necessarily in this order):
  - Experimental Design
  - Running Experiments
  - Analyzing Results
  - Writing and Presenting your work.

The instructor reserves the right to alter this syllabus as necessary.