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CS 486 -01, Senior Seminar, Spring 2010

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Basic Info:

- Meeting times: Monday 3:00-5:00, Thursday 1:00-3:00
- Olendorf 420

Instructor:

- Betsy Williams Sanders
 - Office: Olendorf 420
 - Office Phone: 901.843.3791
 - Email*: williamsb@rhodes.edu

Office Hours:

- TBA
- By appointment

Book and Resources:

- There are no books that you are responsible for purchasing, however the department will purchase some books and make them available to you.
- 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 and chat about our research..

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 and to explore issues related to ethics and professionalism in computer science.
- 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.
- Assignments are sometimes different for each student. Then when we come together, we tell each other what we have discovered about our part of the assignment.
- 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.
- At the end of the semester, you will present your work at Senior Research Day.

Weekly Assignments:

- 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".

- There will also be reading assignments that we will discuss in class. During the course of the semester, we will take turns presenting research papers to the group.

Grade Breakdown:

- 40 % Participation
- 40 % Assignments
- 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.

Important Dates

- Drop Add Ends: 1/20/2010
- Extended Drop Period ends: 2/3/2010
- Pass Fail Period Ends: 2/3/2010
- Withdrawal Period Ends: 3/26/2010

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.