

CSCI 394.2 – Fall 2015

Computer Science Co-Op Seminar

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PPHAC 214

Office Hours: MW 2:30 – 3:30
R 10:00 - 12:00
or by appointment

Course Description

This seminar is the companion to the co-op experience. We will consider how the material from courses (in the major and through LinC) have prepared us for the co-op experience and how the experiences on site help shape our understanding of academic content.

Course Goals

Upon completion of this course, a successful student will be able to:

- Appropriately describe their skills and experiences:
 - in a resume/cover letter
 - during impromptu business conversations
 - in response to interview questions.
- Identify new technologies and software philosophies that would be beneficial, and select appropriate avenues for learning.

Course Texts

Texts for this course will be determined by you, the students. Each week each of you will select a technical article to read and respond to, and we will read each other's articles and posts. These articles will form the basis of our weekly discussions.

Graded Materials

- **Technical Blog** – During the semester you are expected to produce 12 two to three paragraph posts on LinkedIn (approximately one per week). Each post will contain a response to the online article you selected for that week. Two students may select the same article if they present substantially different responses to that article. Otherwise, you are expected to select distinct articles. Article selection is first-come-first-serve.

Article selection and post writing are due by Monday at 4:00 to give others time to read the other articles before class.

Your posts will be graded based on evidence I find that you were seriously thinking about the material presented in the article. I will also be looking to see that you made connections between the readings, content from the computer science curriculum, and your experience at the co-op.

Grades will be assigned using a two-point system:

- **Two** means that you provided significant connections and/or in-depth analysis.
- **One** indicates that you successfully completed the assignment.
- **Zero** is given if you fail to produce a post or that your post was only a summary of the article.

At the end of the semester, your average journal score will translate into an actual letter grade as follows:

≥ 1.75	A
≥ 1.5	B
≥ 1.25	C
≥ 1	D
< 1	F

- **Co-op Position Presentation** – On Wednesday, October 21 you will give a 15 minute presentation about your co-op position. This non-technical presentation should contain the following elements:

- Overview of the company
- Overview of your group within the company
- Description of your project
- Description of a “typical” day
- Description of your current status and near-term plans for the project

This presentation will be graded out of 100 points:

- (20 points) Organization – Is the presentation ordered in a way that topics flow from one to the next. Are transitions used between topics?
- (30 points) Content – Are all of the topics listed above covered?
- (25 points) Quality of Slides – Do the slides *support* the presentation without *being* the presentation. Good slides do not stand on their own, but require a presenter to explain them.
- (25 points) Quality of Presentation – Is there evidence that the presentation was practiced?

- **Final Presentation** – On Wednesday, December 9 you will give a 20 minute technical presentation about the project at your co-op. This presentation should contain the following elements:

- Technical summary of the project

- Description of the technologies used
- Summary of your contributions to the project
- Discussion of the future of the project

This presentation will be graded out of 100 points using the same rubric as the first presentation.

- **Participation** – Half of your participation grade is determined solely on your attendance in class (regardless of whether an absence is excused). The other half is based on active participation and preparedness. I believe that we learn better when we are *actively* engaged in the material. Therefore, I expect you to participate in the activities in class and contribute on a regular basis.

Grade Determination

- Technical Blog – 25%
- Co-op Position Presentation – 30%
- Final Presentation – 35%
- Participation – 10%

Course Policies

- **Late Policy** – I understand that life sometimes gets in the way of getting work done. Consequently, late assignments will be accepted without penalty in the class after the assignment is due. However, this policy should not be used as a crutch, and if you frequently use it I will deduct from your grade. After the next class session, late work will not be accepted unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- **Extensions** – In a similar vein, I am generous with extensions on work if you approach me *before* the day the assignment is due.
- **Absences** – Your attendance is expected at each class meeting, but I understand that students occasionally get sick, have obligations outside Moravian, and even over sleep. If you do miss class, please send me an email explaining your absence – preferably before the class session. Regardless of your reason for missing class, you are responsible for the contents of reading assignments, handouts, class activities, and class email.
- **Academic Honesty** – You are *encouraged* to discuss the material and work with other students in the course, but you must produce your own blog posts and presentations. Further, you are expected to indicate clearly with quotations and citations when you are stating someone else's ideas. Violation of this policy will result in a failing grade for the assignment.
- **Disabilities** – Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact the Assistant Director of Academic and Disability Support in the Academic Support Center, Monocacy Hall, lower level, or by calling 610-861-1401. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

Course Outline

Date	Topic
September 2	Introduction – Where to find articles and how to select them
September 9	Advanced Linked-In – Beyond technical skills and experiences
September 16	What are you working on? – The elevator talk
September 23	Topics based on student-selected articles
September 30	Topics based on student-selected articles
October 7	Topics based on student-selected articles
October 14	Co-op Position Presentations
October 21	Interactions with Human Relations (HR)
October 28	Topics based on student-selected articles
November 4	Topics based on student-selected articles
November 11	Resume and Cover Letter Updates
November 18	Mock Technical Interviews
November 25	Thanksgiving Break
December 2	Topics based on student-selected articles
December 9	Final Presentations

The details of this syllabus are subject to change based on our progress during the semester.