



Channel Islands
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

COMP 599: Graduate Seminar

Fall F2020

Location: Online

Instructor: Jason Isaacs

Email: jason.isaacs@csuci.edu

Web: isaacs.cs.csuci.edu

Office Hours: Zoom (Link on Canvas)

Office Hours: Tue 4pm – 6pm

Course Description:

Prerequisites: Admission to the Computer Science or Mathematics Graduate Program

Oral presentations of current advancements in the field, reports on students' research, master thesis, and projects.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Research arbitrary topics in Computer Science or related fields as well as in application areas
- Prepare illustrative reports documenting their research
- Present the results of the research orally using presentation tools
- Argue and defend the results of their research

Course Outline:

1. Introduction and Getting Started
2. Reading and Reviewing
3. Hypotheses, Questions, and Evidence
4. Writing a Paper
5. Good Style and Style Specifics
6. Punctuation
7. Presentations
8. Mathematics
9. Algorithms
10. Graphs, Figures, and Tables
11. Other Professional Writing

- 12. Editing
- 13. Experimentation
- 14. Statistical Principles
- 15. Ethics

Learning Environment:

This class will be conducted completely asynchronously online. The course is divided into 15 weekly modules. Each module begins on Tuesday and ends on Monday evening at 11:59 pm.

I will hold two hours of open Zoom sessions per week to discuss any questions you may have.

Grading:

The course grading will be Credit / No Credit. To receive credit for this course you are expected to attend all department seminars, actively participate in module discussions and writing activities, and submit a final writing project relate to your thesis.

The course grade will be determined by a weighted average of Seminar Attendance, Writing Activities, Discussions, and the Writing Project.

- **Seminar Attendance – 10%**

The department will host approximately 5 research seminars over the semester. These seminars will be held over Zoom. You are expected to attend the seminar and participate in the discussion forum about the seminar. The schedule of the department seminars will be released soon, but they are typically on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 PM.

- **Practice/Participation Activities – 25%**

Each module includes a reading assignment and associated writing activity. The purpose of these activities is to give an opportunity to practice incorporating the topic into your own research writing.

- **Discussion Forum – 25%**

Each module will include a discussion forum prompt. For full credit you are expected to post a comment about the prompt by Friday at 11:59 PM and post a response to another post by Monday at 11:59 PM.

- **Writing Project – 40%**

For the writing project you have two options.

1. If this is your first time taking this course, you will prepare a research proposal to submit to your thesis committee. The goal of this document is to plan out the rest of your thesis research and communicate this plan to your committee to facilitate early feedback.
2. If this is your second time taking this course, you should have already completed your research proposal. This semester you can instead focus on creating the first

chapters of your thesis including your Introduction, Background, and Related Work sections.

A rough draft of your writing project will be due one month before the end of the semester. You are expected to incorporate feedback into your final document.

Instructor Communication Policy:

I will make every effort to respond to your email questions within 24 hours Monday through Friday. If for some reason you have not received a reply after 24 hours, please feel free to email me again.

Required Materials:

It is **required** that you obtain the textbook *Writing for Computer Science*. Each module will include a reading assignment from this book.

Textbook Required

Title: Writing for Computer Science

Authors: Justin Zobel

Publisher: Springer-Verlag London; 3rd edition

ISBN 978-1-4471-6638-2

Course Policies:

Online Etiquette

All learners in this course are expected to abide by our [community ground rules](#).

Academic Dishonesty

By enrolling at CSU Channel Islands, students are responsible for upholding the University's policies and the Student Conduct Code. Academic integrity and scholarship are values of the institution that ensure respect for the academic reputation of the University, students, faculty, and staff. Cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration with another student, knowingly furnishing false information to the University, buying, selling or stealing any material for an examination, or substituting for another person may be considered violations of the [Student Conduct Code](#)).

If a student is found responsible for committing an act of academic dishonesty in this course, the student may receive academic penalties including a failing grade on an assignment or in the course, and a disciplinary referral will be made and submitted to the Dean of Students office. For additional information, please see the faculty [Academic Senate Policy on Academic Dishonesty](#)., also in the CI Catalog. Please ask about my expectations regarding academic dishonesty in this course if they are unclear.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability requesting reasonable accommodations in this course, please visit Disability Accommodations and Support Services (DASS) located on the second floor of Arroyo Hall or call 805-437-3331. All requests for reasonable accommodations require registration with DASS in advance of needed services. Faculty, students and DASS will work together regarding classroom accommodations. You are encouraged to discuss approved accommodations with your faculty.

- [Apply for DASS Services.](#)

Title IX and Inclusion

Title IX & Inclusion manages the University's equal opportunity compliance, including the areas of affirmative action and Title IX. Title IX & Inclusion also oversees the campus' response to the University's nondiscrimination policies. CSU Channel Islands prohibits discrimination and harassment of any kind on the basis of a protected status (i.e., age, disability, gender, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, medical condition, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion or religious creed, sexual orientation, and Veteran or Military Status). This prohibition on harassment includes sexual harassment, as well as sexual misconduct, dating and domestic violence, and stalking. For more information regarding CSU Channel Islands' commitment to diversity and inclusion or to report a potential violation, please contact Title IX & Inclusion at 805.437.2077 or visit <https://www.csuci.edu/titleix/>.

Weekly Modules:

Each module will begin on Tuesday and end on following Monday at 11:59pm.

Module 1 | Introduction and Getting Started | Dates: 8/25/20 - 8/31/20

Module 2 | Reading and Reviewing | Dates: 9/1/20 - 9/7/20

Module 3 | Hypotheses, Questions, and Evidence | Dates: 9/8/20 - 9/14/20

Module 4 | Writing a Paper | Dates: 9/15/20 - 9/21/20

Module 5 | Good Style and Style Specifics | Dates: 9/22/20 - 9/28/20

Module 6 | Punctuation | Dates: 9/29/20 - 10/5/20

Module 7 | Presentations | Dates: 10/6/20 - 10/12/20

Module 8 | Mathematics | Dates: 10/13/20 - 10/19/20

Module 9 | Algorithms | Dates: 10/20/20 - 10/26/20

Module 10 | Graphs, Figures, and Tables | Dates: 10/27/20 - 11/2/20

Module 11 | Other Professional Writing | Dates: 11/3/20 - 11/9/20

Module 12 | Editing | Dates: 11/10/20 - 11/16/20

Module 13 | Experimentation | Dates: 11/17/20 - 11/23/20

Module 14 | Statistical Principles | Dates: 11/24/20 - 11/30/20

Module 15 | Ethics | Dates 12/1/20 - 12/7/20