

Individual Study Presentations

Fall Term 2005

This file may be updated periodically, to improve the organization, provide additional topics and details, based on interactions between students and the instructor.

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Overview

- **Presentation**
 - Each student gives a 10 minute presentation, and submits a paper
 - At a scheduled time, on an agreed-upon topic
 - Presentation will be graded
 - **Paper**
 - Each student submits a paper (at the end of the term)
 - On the same topic as the presentation
 - Paper will be separately graded
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Your Responsibilities

- **Now:** choose a ranked list of (5) of the topics and dates listed below
 - Some topics are appropriate for multiple individuals
 - Instructor/TA will confirm one of those topics and a date
 - That becomes your contract
 - If you need to change dates, you must arrange with the instructor/TA and another student to swap to swap
 - **Before the date:**
 - Do research on the topic
 - If you run into questions, or difficulty finding information, contact the instructor or TA in time to get help or agree on a change in topic
 - Prepare visual aids
 - Prepare a 10-minute talk
 - Practice the talk to make sure it fits in 10 minutes
 - **On the date:**
 - Be in class
 - Give the presentation
 - **Before or after the talk:**
 - Write up the paper
 - Turn it in on or before 1 December
 - Note: even for multi-person topics, papers are expected to be written individually
 - Turn in electronic copy to "turnitin.com" (details to follow)
 - Also turn in hard copy to instructor
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General Rules

Presentations will generally be given on Fridays. (See the **Calendar** Web page.)

- Each student is expected to sign up for a topic and a week in which to give the oral presentation on that topic. (One student per topic per section.) Most people will probably prefer a date late in the semester, but in order to fit everyone in we will need to start presentations in the fourth (4th) week of classes. Presentations given late in the term will be expected to show more depth of study than presentations given early in the term. However, since the papers are not due until the end of the term, they are all expected to show a similar level of study.
- The choice of topic and date are not independent. Presentation topics need to be appropriate to the subject covered in the readings and lectures around the same time, so that students in the course who listen to the presentation are prepared to benefit from it. The instructor or TA will negotiate a date for each presentation that is appropriate. See the **Calendar** page for the approximate times as which various topics will be covered. Some topics are general enough that they will fit at any time during the term.
- Oral presentations are expected to be 10 minutes long, plus or minus 2 minutes. (Running under or over time will result in a reduction in score.) For most topics this will require that you narrow the scope of your oral presentation, relative to your written report. Cover the most interesting bit that fits in the time limit.
- If you do not show up when you are scheduled to give a presentation, and do not have a valid excuse, your grade will be zero (0) for the oral presentation.
- Papers are due December 1. The paper should give as balanced treatment of the subject or question as will fit in the page limits (see below). That will ordinarily mean going into somewhat more detail than fits in a 10-minute oral presentation.
- Submit the presentation paper to the TA or the instructor of the class.

List of Topics

See the **Presentations Signup** page for a list of possible topics and the **Presentations Schedule** page for a listing of who has signed up for what topic and when.

Instructions for Presentation

Visual Aids

You are expected to prepare visual aids for your presentation in an electronic format that is accessible on your personal Web page (or, if you have not yet set up a personal Web page you can bring in the material on a floppy disk). Acceptable formats are: (1) HTML; (2) MS Powerpoint files; (3) Plain text files. Make certain the font in your visual aids is large enough to be read from the back of the recitation meeting room. Make certain the material is accessible, so that there is no delay getting started.

Make certain in advance that your aids can be viewed in 103 Love, and that it will not take you more than a minute or two to set up. Whatever you use must be viewable using the instructor account on the machine in that room.

*Do **NOT** expect to bring in your own laptop and hook it up to the project in the classroom, unless you have previously checked that the two are completely compatible. Last term a student wasted 20 minutes fussing with trying to get a laptop to work with that projector. We cannot do that in this course.*

Timing

Prepare a talk that you can give in 10 minutes. You will be allowed 10 minutes, in case you under-estimate the time the talk will take. If you are still talking at the end of 10 minutes you will be cut off, to allow the next person to proceed.

To keep within the 10-minute limit, here are some suggestions:

- **Prioritize.** Select the most important, interesting, and useful information. For example, if you are covering a language, you can only give a flavor. Concentrate on what is unusual about the language. Include at least one example showing actual code, that you can explain. You need some introduction, but don't give a long background and history that could chew up all your time.
- **Practice** running through the talk to see how long it takes.
- **Organize** in a way that some parts (at least the last part) of your talk are optional, allowing you to skip forward to a conclusion if you are running out of time. It does not hurt to have some extra optional material in case talk faster in class and discover you have extra time. (BTW, in real-time computing this use of optional parts is how some people code computations that need to fit into a time slot in a fault-tolerant way.)

Grading Criteria

The evaluation of the quality of the presentation (as well as the paper) will take into account the originality, relevance, and currency of information that you present, as well as the clarity of the presentation. The presentation will be scored according to the following table.

Grading Criteria for Presentations	(40 pts possible)
Student is prepared and ready to begin on time	(0 or 5)
Student is within the prescribed time limits.	(0 or 5)
Student speaks audibly and clearly.	(0 .. 5)
Student presentation is well organized.	(0 .. 5)
Student's visual aid is appropriately used and enhances the presentation.	(0 .. 5)
Student addresses all issues mentioned in the topic description.	(0 .. 5)
Student explains the material well, going appropriately in depth given time constraints.	(0 .. 10)

Please be prepared to start on time when you are presenting. If you get started late not only will you lose points, but we will have difficulty finishing within the class period.

Instructions for Paper

You are to write a short paper on the same topic as your oral presentation.

Organization & Format:

The form of the paper should follow the typical form of a Computer Science research or technical report. In particular, it should include the following components:

- Title page, with title, author, course, and date
- Abstract page, summarizing the content of the report. [one paragraph]
- Introduction, summarizing the purpose, content, and organization of the paper. [for this course, 1/2 page to a whole page]
- Body, comprising several sections, each several pages long. [for this course, two to five sections, each a few pages long]
- Conclusion, summarizing the content of the paper and emphasizing what you think are the main insights or conclusions of your research. [for this course, between 1/2 a page and a whole page]
- Bibliography, a numbered list of complete citations of the sources from which you obtained the information in the paper (there should be at least one citation within the introduction or

body for each of these references). [for this course, at least 4 references]

The ranges of pages shown in square brackets above are suggested lower and upper bounds based on a letter-sized paper (8.5" x 11") with double spacing and 10-12 point type.

Grading Criteria

The paper will be will be assessed subjectively, giving approximately equal weight to the quality of the writing and the quality of the research. In particular, the following factors will be considered:

1. Effectiveness in focusing on the assigned question.
2. Accuracy and comprehensibility of your summary of what you found.
3. Completeness and relevance of references.
4. Thoroughness of research, in finding information relevant to the question.
5. Evidence of analysis, and reflection on the information you found.
6. Understanding, as demonstrated by the ability to correctly express and discuss the concepts in your own words.
7. Clarity of writing.
8. Correct grammar, word choice, spelling, and punctuation.

Submission

You are required to submit your paper in *both* hard copy (paper) and electronic format. The electronic copy must be in one of the forms accepted by *turnitin.com*. Instructions on how to use *turnitin.com* will be given later in the term.

Plagiarism

Please take care to write the paper in your own words. Cutting and pasting words from other sources without quotation marks and citations amounts to plagiarism, which will be treated as a violation of the FSU Honor Code. Cutting and pasting words from other sources *with* quotation marks and citations is better, but still indicates lack of creative effort and a potential lack of understanding.

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