CS 494 - Senior Project Seminar

Spring 2009 - Syllabus

Goal
As preparation for CS 495 and CS 497 (Senior Design Project), this course explores topics of
current interest in computers science available for design projects. Students will select projects
and make presentations preparatory for the design project series.

Requirements
Each student will expected to do the following:

1. attend all scheduled class sessions
2. select a project
3. prepare a written “mini-proposal” outlining their project
4. give a short oral presentation

In addition, students are strongly encouraged to attend CS 497 project presentations, day and
time to be announced.

The “mini-proposal” is expected to be 1–2 pages (not including the title page) in length and should
contain the following information:

1. A filled-out title page (attached to this syllabus) with the signatures of the sponsor and
project advisor for the project. The sponsor is the person or organization who determines
the specifications of the project (i.e., what the project is suppose to accomplish). The
project advisor is a member of the EE/CS faculty who can help with any technical questions
regarding the project and determines the technical merit of your project. Generally, they
are not the same person, but in some cases they may be.

2. A problem statement describing what the project is to accomplish. This should include the
motivation behind wanting to solve the problem. (I.e., why is this project interesting?)

3. Any preliminary descriptions of an approach that could used to solve the problem.

4. A preliminary schedule for the design and implementation of the project, including division
of work if it is to be a group project, and any dependencies on existing hardware or software.
Note that CS 495 requires that the design phase of the project be completed by the end of
the Fall 2009 term.

The presentation is expected to be about 5 minutes in length and should consist of briefly describing
the problem and any possible approaches to solving the problem. Visual aids are not necessary,
though allowed.
Schedule

The first half of the term will be used for the selection of projects. We will meet whenever the instructors or others present possible projects. Due to the small number of students in this class, we will not be meeting on a regular basis.

If you have some idea of the kinds of projects you are interested in, let the instructor know. Projects are being solicited continually, and we can try to match you up with one that matches your interests.

When you have decided on a project, you should make an appointment to talk to the instructor. Project selections should be made no later than March 31, 2009. If you already have a project or you want to propose a project, you should make an appointment sooner rather than later.

Presentations will be on the last day for this class, April 23, 2009. The written “mini-proposal” is also due at this time.