Fall 2017 CS 187SL – Science Gateway Seminar 1

☐ Section 01: MW 10:00 - 10:50am, Wheatley 01-0058

Instructor: A. Potasznik
potasznik@cs.umb.edu

Office hours:
Mon 2:30 -3:45, Tues 3:00-4:30, by appt.
5-3-130, ext 7-6490

Wiki: http://cs187l-f17-apotasznik.wikispaces.umb.edu/

Notable dates:
9/12: end add/drop period
Mon 10/9: No class
Weds 10/18: Midterm paper due
Weds 11/22: No class
Weds 12/13: Optional workshop
Weds 12/20: Final paper due

1. Textbook – none. You will need to download/print/bring readings for each class.

2. Course Description
This is the first course of a two-semester sequence, two credits each semester. Successful completion of the sequence will fulfill the student’s First-Year Seminar requirement. Course content during the first semester will focus on understanding various facets of Computer Science (CS) and how it relates to our lives. Students will be introduced to different concepts of CS, read and discuss articles, and discuss important matters in written work and orally, and implement interesting projects in small groups. Students will become increasingly familiar with and experienced in scientific discourse, scientific methods and scientific communication.

3. Student Goals
• Develop writing skills for both informal and academic papers
• Collaborate with fellow classmates regardless of opposing viewpoints
• Become comfortable with the university information technology and computer science departments
• Effectively self assess academic progress
• Critically examine and write about various CS-related issues
• Develop introductory knowledge regarding a wide range of applications of CS expertise
• Present a complex issue verbally to an audience of peers
• Successfully communicate and collaborate with members in a group
• Successfully argue cases with peers of opposing viewpoints

4. Detailed rubric

Class prep & participation: 45%

The instructor will assign various articles each class period. Students are expected to read assigned articles, bring them to the following class (whether in digital or print format) and be ready to discuss them. This preparation will be ascertained by the completion of a reflection “321” that is to be submitted every day on blackboard before the class meets. The reflection should include the following:
3 different potential points of view regarding the article;
2 connections to class terms and/or discussions (at least one connection must be to a class term);
1 lingering question generated by the article.

The 3-2-1 structure is meant to give clear direction in crafting your responses to the articles. However, if students find the structure of the 3-2-1 too cumbersome and would prefer a more narrative reflection, please do so.

The participation grade will be calculated solely on the 321 answers if the student makes a good faith effort to participate in class. If they do not, points will be deducted from this daily grade as the instructor sees fit. Students who neither attend class nor explain their absences ahead of time will receive a 0 for that day’s grade. Students who explain absences ahead of time and submit their responses but do not attend the discussion can earn a maximum of 70 points unless the absence qualifies as a special case (at the discretion of the instructor).

Midterm: 15%

There will be a 5 page minimum paper that will contrast, defend, and critique multiple elements of a specific topic
in computer science technology. The topic of this paper must be approved by the instructor at least 2 weeks before the due date. This paper will be submitted on blackboard. It should be in Times New Roman font, with 1.25” margins, double-spaced.

**Presentation: 25%**

Students will research a current technological issue, then prepare an 9 - 12 minute presentation on the subject. They will highlight all opposing viewpoints and all relevant aspects. They will use applicable terminology as learned in class wherever appropriate. Students will **prepare at least one engaging discussion question** for the class and be ready to lead a discussion based upon it. This may not be a yes or no question and should be better structured than a simple “What do you think of _____?” Use of audiovisuals is encouraged but not mandatory. Students will sign up for presentation dates at the beginning of the year, and may seek advice/approval on topics from the instructor. Presentations should be devoid of profanity and obscene content. Focus on social and technological issues, do not present a how-to guide. If in doubt, discuss content with the professor before the presentation.

**Final Exam: 15%**

The final exam will be a take-home paper between 5 and 10 pages long. This paper will provide in-depth analysis and synthesis of 2 or more news articles. At least one of the articles must be one that we discussed in class. This paper will be submitted on blackboard. It should be in Times New Roman font, with 1.25” margins, double-spaced.

5. **Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory and factored into the student’s grades in the form of class participation. Students should email the teacher in advance if they plan to miss a day of class. At that point they may submit evidence of 321 reflection due on the day of absence (via blackboard) and find the new assignments (online). Missing the previous class is not an excuse for being unprepared with hw when the student returns. Any unexcused work received past the due date will receive a deduction on the following scale:

| Less than 1 day late: -10 points | Less than 2 weeks: -30 points | More than 2 weeks: no credit |

Students with multiple unexcused or unexplained absences may no longer be eligible to submit late work. This determination is at the professor’s discretion.

6. **Academic Integrity**

Any student submitting somebody else’s work as their own, or copying their own old work (whole or in part) to a new submission, will receive a grade of 0 for the assignment and potentially the entire course. In particularly drastic cases, plagiarism can lead to expulsion from the University. The instructor will not tolerate dishonesty and make no exceptions to this policy. Please protect yourself and the instructor from this unpleasant business by being honest and submitting only your own work. It is perfectly acceptable to cite and quote other authors, but you must clearly identify these parts as citations or quotes. If you do use quotes, you will be graded on your own synthesis, not on the quality of the work you are citing or quoting. Assignments with evidence of plagiarism cannot be resubmitted.

7. **Student conduct**

Students are required to adhere to the University Policy on Academic Standards and Cheating, to the University Statement on Plagiarism and the Documentation of Written Work, and to the Code of Student Conduct which is available online at: [http://www.umb.edu/student_affairs/programs/judicial/csc.html](http://www.umb.edu/student_affairs/programs/judicial/csc.html)

8. **Disabilities**

Section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 offers guidelines for curriculum modifications and adaptations for students with documented disabilities. If applicable, students may obtain adaptation recommendations from the Ross Center for Disability Services, M1401 (617-287-7430).

The student must present these recommendations and discuss them with each professor within a reasonable period, preferably by the end of Drop/Add period.

9. **WPE**

Students wishing to use papers from this course for the university writing proficiency exam should contact the professor by email with their request (including specific plans for their foreseen timeline and assignment choice) by the 4th week of classes. Final papers used for this purpose will be due before the stated due date. The professor reserves the right to refuse WPE requests. See: [http://csit285-f-potasznik.wikispaces.umb.edu/Can%3Fl+use+a+CS-JT285+paper+for+my+WPE+portfolio%3F](http://csit285-f-potasznik.wikispaces.umb.edu/Can%3Fl+use+a+CS-JT285+paper+for+my+WPE+portfolio%3F)