CSE 501
Introduction to Graduate Study in Computer Science and Engineering

Oliver Kennedy

August 30, 2022

https://odin.cse.buffalo/teaching/cse-501/

Instructor
http://odin.cse.buffalo.edu/

- Associate Professor, CSE
- Research interests:
  - Databases, Data Prep, Datastructures
- Office: 212 Capen Hall (Elevators by 1Capen)
- Office hours: By appointment (use email)
- Email: okennedy@buffalo.edu

Time and Location

- Tuesday/Thursday, 4:00-5:20 PM, Davis 113A
  - Typically we will be meeting only once a week, mostly on Tuesdays
  - Check the schedule online

- Department colloquia
  - Tuesday/**Thursday** 3:30-5:00 PM, Davis 338A/Davis 113A
  - Highly recommended to attend
  - Required for assignments (more later)

Important URLs

- Course website (schedule, slides, syllabus)

  https://odin.cse.buffalo/teaching/cse-501/

- Piazza (questions, discussions, announcements)

  https://piazza.com/buffalo/fall2022/cse501

Textbooks

- Required textbook
  - None

- Recommended textbook
  - The Elements of Style, 4th edition, Strunk and White
  - Handbook of Writing for the Mathematical Sciences, 2nd edition, Nicholas Higham

Course Overview I

- Guidance about graduate studies in CSE for incoming PhD students
  - Required for all new PhD students

- Topics
  - Academic integrity
  - Nature of research
  - Good teaching and TA skills
  - Writing skills
  - Presentation skills
  - Other (your suggestions…)

Class Format

- Invited presentations
  - Faculty presentations
  - Senior PhD student presentations
- Faculty panels
- Class discussions
- Written assignments
- Oral presentations

Invited Presentations

- Faculty presentations
  - 30-min research talks, 5-min elevator pitch talks
    - Get to know what our faculty do
    - Useful especially if you are looking for an advisor
  - Other topics
    - Academic integrity, research ethics, how to do research

- Senior PhD student presentations
  - About their research/labs/challenges
  - Different perspective, you can ask questions you might not want to ask to faculty
    - I will leave the room at the end

Faculty Panels

- Will try to organize different panels
  - Teaching faculty
  - How to do research
  - ...
  - Depends on faculty availability

Class Discussions

- Various topics
- I will ask for suggestions

Course Workload

- Attendance
- Written reports
- In-class oral presentation

Attendance

- Regular attendance is required

- Come to class **on time!**

- Sign-up at the beginning of class

- To get an **S grade**, you need to attend at least **12 classes**

Written Reports I

- 1-page report of any talk you attended in the past 1 month (including departmental colloquia)

- Format on the website

1. Overview of the talk
   - ✓ Title, speaker, time and date, summary of the content

2. What you liked about the talk
   - ✓ Technical content
   - ✓ Presentation
   - ✓ Other

3. How could the talk have been improved?
   - ✓ Things that you did not like

Written Reports II

- Email the reports to me by 23:59 on the following dates:
  - October 1: Talks in August/September
  - November 5: Talks in October
  - December 3: Talks in November

- PDF only – other formats will not be accepted!
- Late reviews will not be accepted!

- Will post best 2-3 reports every time online
- **NO PLAGIARISM!!!!!**

Report Grading

- 2 points = well written

- 1 point = a reasonable attempt

- 0 points = no submission or no effort

- To get an **S grade**, you need a total of **3 points**

Oral Presentations

- 10-min presentation on a technical topic of your choice
  - CSE related
  - 7-8 min talk + 2-3 min Q&A

- During the last two lectures
  - Nov 29, Dec 6

- Prepare power point/pdf slides

Presentation Grading

- 2 points = good presentation

- 1 point = a reasonable attempt

- 0 points = no presentation or no effort

- To get an **S grade**, you need **1 point**

Class Participation

- Very important!!!

- Attend classes, participate in discussions (in class and online), express your opinion, ask questions

Academic Integrity

- **No tolerance on cheating/plagiarism!!!**
  - All academic integrity violation cases will be reported to the department, school, and university, and recorded
  - **U grade and loss of TA support!**
  - Consult the University Statements on Academic Integrity: https://engineering.buffalo.edu/computer-science-engineering/information-for-students/policies/academic-integrity.html

- Students who share the work with others are as responsible for academic dishonesty as those receiving the material

Academic Integrity II

- Attendance
  - Signing up on behalf of other students who are not in class is an **academic integrity violation**

- Presentations
  - You can use **any** material found online (except from past CSE 501 offerings) as long as you **acknowledge** the source
  - E.g., in your last slide: "Many slides were borrowed from …", or use footnotes in each slide

- Reports
  - You **cannot** use any online material!
  - You have to write them individually

Questions?