COURSE: CMPS 214, CMPS 314, CMPS 414 - Computing Sciences Colloquia
Department of Computing Sciences, University of Scranton

DATE: Spring 2024 (January 24, 2024 - May 17, 2024)

INSTRUCTOR: P. M. Jackowitz
OFFICE: LSC 192
OFFICE HOURS: As posted (online and office door), and by appointment. Note that you must “Log In” to the Course Web Site (CWS) to access the Zoom links.

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Catalog Descriptions:

CMPS 214 - Sophomore Colloquia II, 0.5 credits, (Co-requisite CMPS 134)
CMPS 214 is offered each spring semester. Each semester a minimum of five meetings are held where important, emerging, or interesting topics in computing are presented and discussed. The material comes from a variety of sources including, but not limited to, faculty, alumni, invited speakers, students and professional webinars and videos.

CMPS 314 - Junior Colloquia II, 0.5 credits, (Prequisite: CMPS 214)
CMPS 314 is offered each spring semester. Each semester a minimum of five meetings are held where important emerging, or interesting topics in computing are presented and discussed. The material comes from a variety of sources including, but not limited to, faculty, alumni, invited speakers, students, and professional webinars and videos.

CMPS 414 - Senior Colloquia II, 0.5 credits, (Prequisite: CMPS 314)
CMPS 414 is offered each spring semester. Each semester a minimum of five meetings are held where important emerging, or interesting topics in computing are presented and discussed. The material comes from a variety of sources including, but not limited to, faculty, alumni, invited speakers, students, and professional webinars and videos.

Student Learning Outcomes:

CMPS 214 is the second, CMPS 314 is the fourth, and CMPS 414 is the sixth in a six-course sequence of courses designed to be taken by computing majors during the six semesters of their sophomore, junior and senior years. The intent is for each student to accumulate a total of 3.0 credits by completing the sequence, as they develop an increasing involvement in each course.

This sequence of courses, as a colloquia series, is motivated as a means of better fulfilling the ABET student learning outcome dealing with professional development and lifelong learning. Upon completion of the course sequence, a successful student will have:

- Gained an appreciation of the value of staying up to date with developments in computing
- Gained a better appreciation of the breadth of impact and significance of computing
- Begun to identify those areas of computing they might wish to pursue in more depth
- Improved their listening and writing skills, specifically in regard to identifying and communicating key points
- Improved and grown in confidence in their written and oral communication skills
TEXTS: None required.
REFERENCES: As presented and as required.
Course Web Site: http://www.cs.scranton.edu/~jackowit/public/Spring2024/colloquia

(I plan to use this site as the primary means by which I will promulgate course information and digital materials for the course. Although the landing page is on the public web, the “Content Area” (which is where the digital materials are kept) is on the Department of Computing Sciences “intranet”, which is accessible only through the department’s VPN (virtual Private Network). Although I do not plan to place course materials on Brightspace, I do plan to utilize its “DropBox” feature as the means by which students will submit digital artifacts for evaluation.

Brightspace requires authentication through the public my.scranton portal. The Content Area on my site not only requires use of the VPN (which requires the installation and use of iVanti software), but also requires authentication through the use of unique and specific credentials, that I will provide at the start of the semester, along with additional details.)

GRADING:
Each student will receive either ‘S’ or ‘U’ as their final course grade, indicating either an overall evaluation of “Satisfactory” or “Unsatisfactory” performance throughout the semester. Determination of the final course grade is based upon attendance, participation, contribution to the colloquia and the grades received on assignments given throughout the semester.

Most assignments will require the student to write a brief document in which they present a synopsis of the most recent Colloquia meeting, supplemented with a reflection of their understanding and appreciation of what was presented at the meeting. Some assignments may call upon the student to investigate some topic area and write a brief report on the results of that investigation. For each meeting and related assignment and activity the student will receive one of the following four grades: Absent or Unsubmitted (thus Zero), Unsatisfactory, Satisfactory, or Noteworthy.

To earn a “Satisfactory” final course grade a student must earn predominantly “Satisfactory” or “Noteworthy” grades throughout the semester. Thus, first and foremost, students must be present for all (or nearly all) meetings and complete all (or nearly all) required assignments on time.

Multiple Absent or Unsubmitted grades place the student in serious jeopardy of failing the course. Persistent Unsatisfactory grades would indicate an underlying issue that needs to be addressed, that if not acted upon may likewise place the student in jeopardy of failing the course. Students receiving Unsatisfactory grades on submitted reports may be required to seek assistance from the Writing Center at the Office of Student Support & Success (OSSS) (formerly known as the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence (CTLE)), and provide evidence of this and of improved writing to the course instructor.

MEETING DATES:
Student schedules specify these courses meet concurrently on Fridays during the 3:00 - 4:15 time period. This has been done to assure that every registered student has no conflict that might prevent them from attending all colloquia meetings. However, no more than six meetings are expected to be held at these times and the exact dates and topics for these six meetings have yet to be finalized and will remain subject to change throughout the semester.

Students are strongly encouraged to regularly refer to the promulgated schedule and meeting announcements. This includes through email, on Brightspace and as “Upcoming Events” on the Computing Sciences Department web site; https://www.cs.scranton.edu/.
All students are expected to attend colloquia meetings in-person. Students needing to attend remotely for any health reason are to follow established University procedures will then trigger a notification to the instructor from the respective Deans' Office. However, it remains the responsibility of every student wishing to attend remotely, for any reason, to promptly and without hesitation to communicate this to the instructor and to make specific arrangements ahead of time.

Furthermore, all students allowed to attend remotely are expected to read and abide by the detailed statement of policy, entitled Remote Attendance (on Zoom) - Expectations and Etiquette, available at https://www.cs.scranton.edu/~jackowit/public/Spring2024/RemoteAttendance.pdf.

As much as possible presenters will appear in-person, but given the diverse situations of the individuals volunteering their time and expertise to us remote appearances may be necessary. Even in those situations we will still convene in-person for the meetings.

PROCEDURES:

In the event the University continues or establishes revised specific behaviors for all persons on campus, to deal with any ongoing infections, we are all expected to be informed of these and to adhere to them. Instructors are authorized to use their judgement and discretion to require students to clean and sanitize workstation areas and surfaces, maintain specific social distance and to wear masks.

Decorum:

• please arrive early so as to allow time to have your attendance recorded (by card swipe) so that you are seated and attentive for the scheduled start of the meeting/presentation
• feel free to ask and answer questions, and to contribute to discussions
• classroom use of electronic devices/gadgets (including computers) is at the full discretion of the instructor. (Distracting others or yourself will not be tolerated.)
• due to past abuses and unprofessional behavior (by just a few students), all computers, tablets, smartphones, headphones, ear buds, etc. must be kept completely out of sight and unused during meetings. Please be sure to silence all devices so as not to cause any disruption.

Other:

• See Syllabi Language regarding "My Reporting Obligations as a Required Reporter" at: https://www.scranton.edu/equity-diversity/faculty-resources.shtml