

COS 397: COMPUTER SCIENCE CAPSTONE 1

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University of Maine

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THIS COURSE IS THE FIRST OF A TWO-COURSE SEQUENCE designed to guide students in proposing the Capstone project in either an independent study, group project, or field experience format. The focus is on the early stages of project work, including finding a suitable topic and project advisor, investigating related work, and writing a thorough project proposal. The relevant skills are covered and practiced by studying a collection of classic and topical papers. The papers and topics studied vary by semester, partly based on discussions in the first few class meetings.

News and Reminders:

- Please read the class newsgroup for timely announcements: `umaine.cs.capstone` on NNTP server `news.cs.umaine.edu`. Web interface to get started: <http://cs.umaine.edu/~chaw/news/>.
- The most recent version of this document may be found at <http://cs.umaine.edu/~chaw/cap1/>.
- Please use the PDF version of this document for printing and reference: `cap1.pdf`

Goals and Learning Objectives

Goals

- Develop the ability to independently explore a topic by discovering, reading, and critiquing prior work.
- Gain experience in contributing to the body of knowledge.
- Gain experience in conducting and documenting experimental studies of programs.
- Improve our programming skills, with attention to software engineering principles.
- Improve our communication skills, with particular emphasis on written communication and, further, well-written programs.
- Practice the appropriate and ethical use of existing material of different kinds, such as source code, services, and documentation.
- Learn how to manage a self-directed project.

Learning Objectives

Students should be able to

- Make effective use of the research literature.
- Determine how available software may be used, subject to both common professional standards and the legal licenses governing the software.
- Choose an appropriate method for contributing their own work (code, documentation, reports) to the profession, including licenses and copyrights that best suit their needs.
- Write code that can be easily used by their peers and others.
- Perform scientifically sound experimental evaluations of their work.
- Evaluate appropriate software engineering methods for individual and team work.
- Present their work in a public forum to their peers and others.

Prerequisites

The prerequisites for Capstone 1 are junior standing *and* permission of the department. Students should discuss these prerequisites with their *academic advisors* before seeking help elsewhere. Students with any *special requests* in this regard must address them to the *department chair*, with the support of their academic advisors.

Contact Information

Class meetings:

Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:00–3:15 p.m.

Location: Neville Hall, Room 204.

Instructor: Sudarshan S. Chawathe

Office: Neville Hall, Room 224.

Office hours: (Please check for changes.) Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:30–2:00 p.m., 3:15–4:00 p.m.

Phone: +1-207-581-3930. Avoid use.

Email: chaw@cs.umaine.edu. Use email only for messages unsuitable for the newsgroup. (See below.)

Please put the string *Capstone* near the beginning of the Subject header of your messages to me.

Web: <http://cs.umaine.edu/~chaw/>.

Online Resources

Class Web site: <http://cs.umaine.edu/~chaw/cap1/>

We will use the class Web site for posting assignments, readings, notes, and other material. Please monitor it.

Class Newsgroup: We will use the local USENET newsgroup `umaine.cs.capstone` on the NNTP server `news.cs.umaine.edu` for electronic discussions. If you are unfamiliar with USENET, you may find the Web interface at <http://cs.umaine.edu/~chaw/news/> useful as a quick way to get started. You may find further information on USENET at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Usenet>. The newsgroup is the primary forum for electronic announcements and discussions, so please monitor it regularly, and post messages there as well. Unless there is a reason for not sharing your question or comment, please *use the newsgroup, not email*, for questions and comments related to this course.

Class mailing list: *Please make sure you are on the class mailing list.* A sign-up sheet is circulated at the first class meeting. If you miss it, please contact me to get on the list. We will use this mailing list only for urgent messages because all other messages will go on the class newsgroup. I anticipate fewer than a dozen messages on this list over the semester.

Grading Scheme

component	%
class participation	5
homeworks	25
project proposals (versions 1, 2, & 3)	35 (5 + 10 + 20)
midterm exams 1 & 2	20 (10 + 10)
final exam	15

Class participation: Students are expected to contribute to learning by asking questions and making relevant comments in class *and on the class newsgroup*. Quality is more important than quantity. Disruptive activity contributes negatively. Please make sure all disruptive devices are disabled while in class. If you have a good reason for wanting to be disturbed in class, please contact me to make the appropriate arrangements.

Homeworks: Homeworks include programming and non-programming ones, often mixed. No collaboration is permitted. You are allowed, and encouraged, to discuss the problems and solution strategies *at a high level*, but the final solution and details must be your individual work. If you are unclear on the boundary between permissible and non-permissible interactions in this regard, please ask me.

Project Proposals: The sequence of three project proposals serves to develop a systematic plan for a capstone project. The details are outlined in the guide for Capstone project proposals (Reading 1). Further details will follow in class.

Exams: All exams are *open book, open notes*. You are free to bring with you any resources that you find useful. However, no communications are permitted other than between students and me. The use of computers during exams is strongly discouraged, but brief use is permitted *provided it does not cause a disturbance*. You may use the Internet, but only as a library to look up material you may find useful. As above, check with me if you are unclear on what is permitted. The exams are designed to require no equipment other than a pen and paper.

Midterm exams will be held during regular class meetings, and will be roughly an hour long. The final exam follows the usual university schedule, and is thus held outside of regular class meetings.

Policies

Due dates: All due dates (and times) are strict, as announced in class. If you believe your work was delayed by truly exceptional circumstances, let me know as soon as those circumstances are known to you and I will try to make a fair allowance. However, *the default is that you get a zero if you don't turn in the work on time*.

Attendance: Although I expect students to attend all class meetings, I will not be taking attendance. If you miss a class meeting, you are responsible for making up the lost material. If you have a valid reason for missing a class, let me know early and I will try to help you make up the class.

Make-up classes: I may have to reschedule a few classes due to my other professional commitments. I will make every attempt to minimize the number of such occurrences and to reschedule for a time that works for most students. Further, I will make sure no student is penalized by such occurrences.

Academic honesty (standard university wording): Academic dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarism and all forms of misrepresentation in academic work, and is unacceptable at The University of Maine. As stated in the University of Maine's online undergraduate Student Handbook, plagiarism (the submission of another's work without appropriate attribution) and cheating are violations of The University of Maine Student Conduct Code. An instructor who has probable cause or reason to believe a student has cheated may act upon such evidence, and should report the case to the supervising faculty member or the Department Chair for appropriate action.

Disabilities (standard university wording): If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, please contact Ann Smith, Director of Disabilities Services, 121 East Annex, 581-2319, as early as possible in the term.

Readings

This list will be revised and annotated as the semester progresses to reflect, in particular, the topics and papers selected based on class discussions.

1. Sudarshan S. Chawathe. Capstone project proposals—suggestions for deeper explorations. Department of Computer Science, University of Maine. <http://cs.umaine.edu/>, February 2008.
2. Timothy Furtak, José Nelson Amaral, and Robert Niewiadomski. Using SIMD registers and instructions to enable instruction-level parallelism in sorting algorithms. In *Proceedings of the 19th Annual ACM Symposium on Parallel Algorithms and Architectures (SPAA)*, pages 348–357, San Diego, California, 2007.
3. Jon L. Bentley and M. Douglas McIlroy. Engineering a sort function. *Software–Practice and Experience*, 23(11):1249–1265, November 1993.
4. Derrick Coetzee. An efficient implementation of Blum, Floyd, Pratt, Rivest, and Tarjan’s worst-case linear selection algorithm. <http://moonflare.com/>, January 2004.
5. Bingsheng He, Ke Yang, Rui Fang, Mian Lu, Naga K. Govindaraju, Qiong Luo, and Pedro V. Sander. Relational joins on graphics processors. In *Proceedings of the 28th ACM International Conference on Management of Data (SIGMOD)*, Vancouver, Canada, June 2008. To appear.
6. Naga K. Govindaraju, Jim Gray, Ritesh Kumar, and Dinesh Manocha. GPUteraSort: High performance graphics coprocessor sorting for large database management. In *Proceedings of the 26th ACM International Conference on Management of Data (SIGMOD)*, Chicago, Illinois, July 2006.
7. Daniel Cederman and Philippos Tsigas. A practical quicksort algorithm for graphics processors. Technical Report 2008-01, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Chalmers University of Technology and Göteborg University, Göteborg, Sweden, 2008.
8. Sang-Won Lee and Bongki Moon. Design of flash-based DBMS: an in-page logging approach. In *Proceedings of the 27th ACM International Conference on Management of Data (SIGMOD)*, pages 55–66, Beijing, China, June 2007.
9. Gilad Bracha. Generics in the Java programming language. Tutorial. <http://java.sun.com/>, July 2004.
10. Ken Thompson. Reflections on trusting trust. *Communications of the ACM*, 27(8):761–763, August 1984.
11. Mark C. Hamburg. Two tagless variations on the Deutsch-Schorr-Waite algorithm. *Information Processing Letters*, 22:179–183, 1986.
12. Martin E. Hellman. An overview of public-key cryptography. *IEEE Communications Magazine*, 50(5):42–49, May 2002. Originally published in 16(6), November 1978.
13. Jon Bentley and Don Knuth. Programming pearls: Literate programming. *Communications of the ACM*, 29(5):364–369, May 1986.
14. Jon Bentley, Don Knuth, and Doug McIlroy. A literate program. *Communications of the ACM*, 29(6):471–483, June 1986.
15. Paul E. Black. Dictionary of algorithms and data structures. <http://www.nist.gov/dads/>, September 1998.

Assignments, Tests, and Notes

Material will appear here as we move along the semester. It may be useful to refer to the homeworks and tests from the previous session: <http://cs.umaine.edu/~chaw/200801/capstone/>.

Submission Instructions

All electronic submissions must use the file upload interface at <http://cs.umaine.edu/~chaw/u/> with the authentication information announced in class. Uploaded files must be named following the template `cap1-Lastname-Firstname-hw1.jar`, or as announced in class. *No other forms of electronic submission (such as email attachments) are accepted.* Submissions must be properly packaged, with suitable README files, and must contain only *source* code and documentation.

Schedule

An approximate schedule appears in Figure 1. This schedule will be updated based on the specific topics and readings selected by the class after the first few class meetings. The notation R_n refers to the n th item in the reading list.

Please use the schedule only as a rough guide to plan your studies. Do *not* use it to schedule travel or other events. If you need a definite answer on when something will or will not occur, you should check with me.

TUESDAY		THURSDAY	
January 13th Introduction; project guidelines; customization; sorting. R1.	C1	15th Customization; sorting and SIMD. R2.	C2
20th	C3	22nd	C4
27th	C5	29th Homework 1 due.	C6
February 3rd	C7	5th Project Report 1 due.	C8
10th	C9	12th ★ Midterm Exam 1 , regular class time & place.	C10
17th	C11	19th	C12
24th	C13	26th Homework 2 due.	C14
March 3rd × <i>No class. Spring Break Mar. 1st–15th.</i>		5th × <i>No class.</i>	
10th × <i>No class.</i>		12th × <i>No class.</i>	
17th	C15	19th Project Report 2 due.	C16
24th	C17	26th ★ Midterm Exam 2 , regular class time & place.	C18
31st	C19	April 2nd	C20
7th	C21	9th Homework 3 due.	C22
14th Student presentations and review.	C23	16th Student presentations and review.	C24
21st Student presentations and review.	C25	23rd Student presentations and review. Project Report 3 due.	C26
28th Student presentations and review.	C27	30th Student presentations and review.	C28
May 5th × <i>No class. Finals week May 4th–8th.</i>		7th ★ Final exam: May 7th 10:30am–12:30pm. Location TBA.	C29

Figure 1: **Approximate** schedule. Details reflecting this semester’s choices will appear after the first few class meetings. All dates, including exam dates, are tentative!