

CSCI 4890 - Computer Projects

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 05, CRN 40775,

Credit hours: 4

Instructor

Alina Lazar

Email: alazar@ysu.edu

Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Professor

Instructor Professional Qualifications: Ph. D., Computer Science, Wayne State University, 2002

Instructor Office Location: Meshel Hall, Room 334

Instructor Office Phone: 330-941-3468

Course Description

4890. Computer Projects. Individualized study of a topic in computer science culminating in a written report and an oral presentation. May be repeated up to 8 s.h. of computer science (including at least 3 s.h. of upper-division CSCI courses) applicable to the minimum requirements of a computer science major, and formal project proposal. Prereq.: 24 semester hours of computer science courses (including at least 3 semester hours of upper division CSIS or CSCI courses). 2-4 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	None		
Optional	Writing for Computer Science	Justin Zobel	ISBN-10 : 1447166388 ISBN-13 : 978-1447166382
Optional	How to Read a Paper	S. Keshav	

Current peer-reviewed papers selected for each student's research topic

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Syllabus; example CS project questions	Orientation; project topic and scope	Start research log; initial project idea
8/31	Keshav, How to Read a Paper	Reading research papers	Three-pass paper analysis
9/7	Topic-specific reading	Labor Day week - University closed Monday; independent research	Literature search progress; meeting rescheduled/asynchronous
9/14	Zobel selection; topic papers	Research question and project scope	Project abstract / research questio
9/21	Current peer-reviewed papers	Literature searching and synthesis	Annotated bibliography / literature map
9/28	Zobel selection on research planning	Project proposal and planning	Project proposal
10/5	Methods sections from exemplary papers	Experimental design; baselines; controls	Methods, datasets, baselines, metrics
10/12	Project-specific evaluation papers	Evaluation metrics and reproducibility	Repository / reproducibility checkpoint
10/19	Instructor-selected resources	Data analysis and basic statistics	Preliminary analysis
10/26	Examples of effective CS figures/tables	Visualization and evidence	Preliminary figures/tables
11/2	Topic-specific papers as needed	Research progress review	Mid-project progress checkpoint
11/9	Zobel selection on technical writing	Writing a research-style report; University closed Wednesday, Nov. 11	Paper outline + draft sections

11/16	Exemplary discussion/limitations sections	Interpreting results; limitations; threats to validity	Results and discussion draft
11/23	No new reading	Thanksgiving week – no classes Nov. 25–27	Asynchronous progress update; no regular meeting
11/30	Peer draft(s); presentation guidance	Peer/advisor review and presentation preparation	Complete paper draft; presentation draft
12/7	No new reading	Final examination period	Final paper, project materials, and technical presentation

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.