

CSCI 6990 - Computer Science Project

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 04, CRN 44052,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Alina Lazar

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Professor

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

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Course Description

6990. Computer Science Project. Report and discussion of individual topics or research projects in computer science. Prereq.: Nine semester hours of computer science courses numbered above 5000. 1-3 s.h.

Course Readings

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

The primary readings will be current peer-reviewed research papers, technical reports, standards, software documentation, and other sources directly relevant to the student's graduate project. Students are expected to move beyond introductory sources and engage critically with the research literature.

Readings may be adjusted to reflect project needs, research developments, and improved learning opportunities.

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 question
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.