

CSCI 6996 - Independent Study

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 04, CRN 41039,

Credit hours: 4

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

6996. Independent Study. Study under the supervision of a faculty member. Prereq.: Permission of chair. 1-4 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; initial topic resources	Orientation; define independent-study topic and scope	Start study log; initial topic/goals
8/31	Initial scholarly/technical readings	Develop study plan and identify key resources	Draft study plan and preliminary bibliography/resources
9/7	Topic-specific reading	Labor Day week - University closed Monday; independent research	Study-plan revision; meeting rescheduled/asynchronous
9/14	Key background sources	Background, technical context, and learning objectives	Final study plan / topic proposal
9/21	Topic-specific readings/resources	Independent study work I	Progress evidence / notes / artifacts
9/28	Topic-specific readings/resources	Independent study work II	Progress checkpoint
10/5	As appropriate to study	Methods, tools, or technical investigation	Methods/tools checkpoint
10/12	As appropriate to study	Independent study work III	Documentation / reproducibility checkpoint
10/19	As appropriate to study	Analysis, implementation, experimentation, or synthesis	Mid-semester progress review
10/26	As appropriate to study	Independent study work IV	Preliminary findings / artifacts
11/2	As appropriate to study	Interpretation, refinement, and next steps	Progress checkpoint
11/9	As appropriate to study	Writing/documentation; University closed Wed. 11/11	Final-product outline or structure

11/16	As appropriate to study	Develop final scholarly/technical product	Substantial draft or near-final artifact
11/23	As appropriate to study	Thanksgiving week — no classes Nov. 25–27	Asynchronous progress update; no regular meeting
11/30	As appropriate to study	Finalize independent-study work	Complete draft / final artifact preparation
12/7	No new reading	Final examination period	Final product; final 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.