CSCI 300: Social Responsibility in Computer Science (Fall 2006)

Term Paper

1. Choosing a Topic
Choose an interesting topic related to the subject matter of this course. The topic you choose may concern any aspect of computing, but the focus should be on the professional, social, human, ethical, and/or legal issues and impacts. No two class members may choose exactly the same topic. In case of a conflict, topics will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Dr. Baase (the textbook author) has several possible term paper topics listed at, http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/faculty/giftfire/papertopics. The material in the textbook's chapters, exercises, and further reading sections should suggest other possible topics. You might also want to "Google" a bit looking for ideas.

2. Annotated Bibliography
Prepare a bibliography that lists the sources that are relevant to your paper's topic. This bibliography should include all sources that you plan to consult, read, review, and/or skim in writing the paper. (If necessary, you can make some changes in the bibliography for the final paper.)

Entries in your bibliography should be presented in a format consistent with the bibliographic style used in the paper. Each entry in your bibliography should include a brief annotation, consisting of approximately 50 words, written by you, describing what that item is and why it is relevant to your paper's topic.

There is no minimum or maximum number of items that must be included in your bibliography. Your bibliography should demonstrate that you have done serious library work to determine relevant sources. Your bibliography should be typed. Include your name and paper title as part of the heading for the bibliography.

3. Term Paper
You are required to research your chosen topic and write a paper according to the following guidelines:

- This is an individual assignment under the provisions of the School of Engineering's Honor Code. You must conduct the research and write the paper yourself. You are, of course, encouraged to discuss your topic with your fellow students, your instructor, and other knowledgeable individuals. You are also encouraged to take advantage of the normal services of the University's libraries and writing centers.
- Your paper is a piece of scholarly technical writing. Structure it appropriately. Write using standard, technical English.
- The term paper should include a title page, an honor code statement, an outline, the text, and a bibliography. You may include an acknowledgements section if that is appropriate.
• The title page should include the title for the paper, your name, the course number and semester, and any other relevant information.
• A signed copy of the following Honor Code statement should be included in the term paper on a separate page:

In keeping with the Honor Code of the School of Engineering, I affirm that I have neither given nor received assistance in preparing this assignment.

Signature:______________________________

• The outline should be complete, consistent with the paper's text, appropriately and consistently worded and formatted, and at an appropriate level of abstraction.
• The paper's text should include an introduction, a body, and a conclusion.
• The introductory section should motivate the remainder of the paper and give appropriate background information.
• The transitions between sections should be smooth and continuous.
• The paper should end reasonably (not just stop abruptly when the page count is reached).
• The scope and level of detail should be appropriate for a paper of this length.
• The paper should discuss the issues, not just report factual information.
• The paper should present alternative points of view of the issues involved.
• Terms and acronyms should be defined before they are used.
• The paper should include a bibliography of the materials you consulted or quoted in writing your paper. You should include at least eight carefully chosen references. These may be professional books and journal articles, trade journal articles, popular magazine and newspaper articles, conference and workshop articles, technical reports, world-wide web documents, etc. Several of the references should be to professional publications.
• The bibliographic entries should be prepared according to an appropriate standard and be correct, complete, and consistent in format. (One standard reference on bibliographic style is Kate L. Turabian's A Manual For Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations. Copies of this book can be purchased in the bookstore or found in the library.)
• In general, only a small number of your references should be to world-wide web documents, especially to documents that are not refereed or professionally edited. If you cite web documents, give the author, title, publisher, and date as you would for paper documents. Also give the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the document and the date on which you accessed the document.
• The text of the paper should include appropriate, correct, and consistent citations of your references.
• Text taken verbatim (i.e., word for word) from another source must be clearly indicated as a quotation. Short quotes are enclosed in double quotes; long quotes are shown as indented blocks. In general, do not overuse quotations; instead restate the source’s ideas in your own words (and show an appropriate citation).

• Warning: Inclusion of text verbatim from another source without appropriate quotation and citation is plagiarism. Plagiarism is unprofessional behavior which violates the School of Engineering Honor Code.

• The paper may include appropriate figures. Any figures included should be explained clearly in the text. The figures should have appropriate captions and identifiers.

• You should produce the paper using a word processing (or typesetting) program.

• You should check the spelling and grammar carefully. Use the spelling and grammar checking tools that are available, but also read the paper very carefully several times.

• The review copy of the paper should be printed double-spaced using a font size no larger than 12 points or smaller than 10 points and using one-inch margins on all sides. The pages should be numbered from 1 beginning with the first page of the body. Staple the paper in the upper left corner. Do not bind it otherwise.

• The final copy of the paper should also be printed in a double-spaced format using a font size no larger than 12 points and smaller than 10 points and using one-inch margins on all sides. The pages should be numbered from 1 beginning with the first page of the body. Staple the paper in the upper left corner. Do not bind it otherwise.

• When printed, the (double-spaced) final copy of the paper should be 7 to 10 pages in length (not including the title page, honor code statement, outline, and bibliography).

• If you write an excellent paper, we will look for ways that it can be submitted for publication.

4. Critique

After the review copies of the term paper are turned in, you will be given a copy of another student's paper to evaluate. You will have approximately one week to read the paper carefully, edit it, complete an evaluation form, and write a two-page critique of the paper. When that work is complete, you are asked to submit the edited paper and two copies of the evaluation form and attached critique to your instructor.

As much as possible, your review will be anonymous. Please be honest in your evaluation. The content of the evaluation will affect the person's grade very little, but it will definitely affect yours. Be tactful and constructive.
In the two-page (typed, double-spaced) critique of the paper address what are, in your opinion, the strong points and the weak points of the paper. Indicate areas you believe can be improved. You should elaborate on the responses you gave on the evaluation form, especially where a low score was given.

You will be given a copy of the evaluation form and critique done by another student for your paper. One week later the final copy of the term paper is due. As appropriate, you may revise your term paper to respond to issues raised in the critique.

**One purpose of the evaluation and critique is to help the other student improve his or her paper. Thus remember to be tactful and constructive in your comments.**

A second purpose of the evaluation and critique is to help you improve your paper and your writing skills in general. The other student's comments may be helpful. I also hope the process of evaluating and editing the other student's work will give you new insight into techniques for effective writing.

5. Deadlines

**Topic description due: Friday, 22 September.**
You must choose a topic and submit a brief written description of the topic to the instructor for approval as soon as possible - no later than 1:00 p.m. on Friday, 22 September. You may submit your topic choice and description via email. The instructor will either approve or disapprove the topic as soon as possible.

**Annotated bibliography due: Friday, 20 October.**
One copy of an annotated bibliography must be submitted to the instructor by 12:00 noon on Friday, 20 October.

**Two review copies due: Friday, 3 November.**
Two review copies of your term paper must be submitted to the instructor by 1:00 p.m. on Friday, 3 November. On 3 November you will be given a review copy of another student's term paper to critique.

**Two critique copies due: Friday, 10 November.**
Two copies of your critique must be submitted by 12:00 Noon on Friday, 10 November. You will be given a copy of the critique of your paper on 10 November.

**Final copy due: Friday, 17 November.**
The final copy of your term paper is due by 12:00 Noon on Friday, 17 November. This is the last day of class before the Thanksgiving break.