

UTRGV COURSE SYLLABUS

CSCI6174.01 Open Problems in Computer Science
Fall 2017
R 8:45pm~9:35pm ENGR 1.272

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Textbook and/or Resource Material

There is no required textbook for this course. Faculty given the weekly presentations will provide at least one paper for students to read. Readings and all course materials are available online at <http://faculty.utrgv.edu/zhixiang.chen/csci6174/cs6174-readings.html>

I will also use Blackboard for this class. Please make sure that you assess Blackboard often for course materials, assignments, and especially submitting your assignments. Assignment deadlines will be enforced by Blackboard.

Course Description and Prerequisites

Description from UTRGV Graduate Catalog:

A survey of current research areas in Computer Science. Topics are discussed in an informal seminar setting. Prerequisite Consent of instructor.

This weekly seminar explores problems being investigated in the fields of computer science and information technology, focusing on current faculty projects in the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Department of Computer Science. The course is required of all students in the Department of Computer Science graduate programs and is to be taken in the student's first year. Following the introductory first week meeting, Computer Science faculty members present overviews of their research fields, describing their ongoing research projects.

Prerequisite courses: None

Class Participations: Weekly Class Discussion Questions

Each week, except the first, students submit two questions about the assigned readings and topic to be presented by the faculty member. A question might seek classification of a point in the paper, more detail about something mentioned in the paper, the relation of something mentioned in the context of the paper to other context, etc. Student questions are submitted to Blackboard by 12:00 pm the day of the presentation.

Student Paper and Annotated Bibliography

Students complete 1) a paper and 2) an annotated bibliography on a topic in computer science or information technology of their interest. Students are encouraged to use a presentation by a faculty member as a starting point for further readings and to contact a faculty member for suggestions about further readings. More detail on the format of the paper and annotated bibliography will be provided.

Learning Objectives/Outcomes for the Course

Upon successfully completing the course each student should be able to:

- Learn the range of current research areas in computer science and information technology
- Know the research areas of Department of Computer Science faculty members
- Engage in considered discussion with faculty presenters
- Know the role of mater's project or thesis in attaining graduate study goals
- Learn how to access research materials available through UTRGV resources, focusing on IEEE and ACM publications
- Develop reference research skills in writing a research paper in the area of seminar
- Know the form and goals of a research presentation, as presented in class and through handouts
- Learn in detail about a current research area in computer science or information technology that might be pursued for mater's project or thesis
- Prepare an annotated bibliography covering selected research areas being investigated by Department of Computer Science faculty members
- Prepare a paper describing a research area of interest using IEEE or ACM style

Learning Objectives for Core Curriculum Requirements

This course is not a part of the University Core Curriculum.

Grading Policies

The grade will be based on

- (15%) Class participation: weekly submission of discussion questions about presentation readings, attendance at presentations, etc.
- (60%) Paper
- (25%) Annotated bibliography

No assignment will be accepted late.

Calendar of Activities

Include in this section a table or list that provides information for students regarding important dates, assignments or activities. The UTRGV academic calendar can be found at <https://my.utrgv.edu/home> at the bottom of the screen, *prior to login*. Some important dates for Fall 2017 include:

August 28	First day of classes
August 31	Last day to add a course or register for fall 2017
September 4	Labor Day – NO classes
November 15	Last day to drop a course; will count toward the 6-drop rule
November 23 – 26	Thanksgiving Holiday – NO classes
December 6	Last day of classes
December 7	Study Day – NO class
December 8 -14	Fall 2017 Final Exams
December 15-16	Commencement Ceremonies

UTRGV Policy Statements

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive. Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services. **Brownsville Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu. **Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:

Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (<http://my.utrgv.edu>); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available:

Fall 2017 Module 1	Oct. 5 – Oct. 11
Fall 2017 Module 2	Nov. 29 – Dec. 5
Fall 2017 (full semester)	Nov. 15 – Dec. 6

ATTENDANCE:

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV's attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:

As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE:

In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

COURSE DROPS:

According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

CSCI 6174.01 Open Problems in Computer Science Schedule Fall 2017

Thursdays: 8:45-9:35, Engineering Bldg. 1.272

Note: The schedule is tentative.

Week	Date	Topic
1	8/31	Introduction: Graduate Study in Computer Science and Information Technology
2	9/7	Dr. Hansheng Lei, topics?
3	9/14	Dr. Andres Figueroa Lozano: Bioinformatics
4	9/21	Dr. Dong-Chul Kim: Machine Learning
5	9/28	Dr. Liyu Zhang: topic?
6	10/5	Dr. Fitra Khan: topic?
7	10/12	Dr. Timothy Wylie: Algorithms
8	10/19	Dr. Bin Fu: Algorithms
9	10/26	Dr. Robert Schweller: DNA Self Assembly
10	11/2	Dr. Andrew Winslow: Computing with Squares
11	11/9	Dr. Emmett Tomai: Artificial Intelligence and Natural Language
12	11/16	Dr. Megan Strait: Social Technologies
13	11/23	TBA - Thanksgiving
14	11/30	Dr. John Abraham: Networks
15	12/7	Dr. Mahmoud Quweider: topic?