Course Description

CMPSC 600
Senior Thesis I
Fall 2006

Home page: http://cs.allegheny.edu/~rroos/cs600f2006/
(Or http://cs.allegheny.edu/wiki/cs600f2006/)

Course Description

Office Hours: My office is in Alden 105, extension 2883. My hours are Monday and Friday 1:30 – 2:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday 2 – 4:30 p.m., and by appointment. The best way to schedule an appointment is to send me an e-mail.

Grading: Your grade in CMPSC 600 will be based on some combination of the following:

- **Attendance**: This includes attending Friday sessions when scheduled, meeting regularly with your senior thesis advisor, and attending departmental and ACM activities. At a later date you will receive a list of speakers, panels, research seminars, and other activities, from which you will be expected to select some percentage of events to attend. (More details will be forthcoming.)
- **Written proposal**: Must be approved by your senior thesis advisor and formatted according to department thesis proposal style requirements.
- **Proposal defense**: See calendar, below, for deadlines. Pauline in room 110 will schedule the defense for you once you have obtained permission from your first reader. Normally a thesis proposal defense runs about 45 minutes.
- **Two chapters**: Two chapters of your final senior thesis must be handed in before the last week of classes. It must be formatted according to the department’s thesis style.

Calendar. You should already have a draft of a proposal from CMPSC 580, but your thinking may have changed during the summer or as a result of feedback that you received in the junior seminar. Therefore, we ask that you submit a revised and expanded proposal to both the instructor of CMPSC 600 and your first reader no later than the end of the second week of classes (15 September 2006). First readers will be assigned prior to that date; be sure you submit your request for first and second readers.

Every week you should submit a written summary of your progress for the week to both your first reader and the instructor of CMPSC 600. You must create these documents electronically, not simply write them out on a piece of paper. The report does not have to be in any particular format, but we will be extremely happy to see code examples, summaries and analyses of papers or other references you have consulted, descriptions of e-mail exchanges with researchers at other locations concerning aspects of your project, and so on. As you write these weekly summaries, think of how they could be incorporated into your final proposal and, ultimately, your final thesis. A “report” can consist primarily of newly written material (a
proposal or a part of a proposal; a piece of a chapter), but you should have at least a brief
description of what you did during the week in addition to this.

You should have your proposal approved by your first reader no later than Oct. 27 so that
there will be sufficient time to schedule your proposal defense and complete your chapters by
the last week of class.

Schedule. We will meet every Friday afternoon for the first part of the semester; after that, classes
will be scheduled at intervals. However, you have a weekly obligation to meet with your thesis
advisor, particularly if CMPSC 600 is not meeting as a class that week.

Department Late Policy:

The following policy was adopted by the entire computer science department, effective begin-
ning in fall of 2004:

All assignments will have a given due date. The assignment is to be turned in at
the beginning of the class on that due date. Late assignments will be accepted for
up to one week past the assigned due date with a 10% penalty. All late assignments
must be submitted at the beginning of the class that is scheduled one week after
the given due date.

E-Mail Policy:

You are expected to check your Allegheny e-mail account every day. Announcements will
sometimes be mailed to this address. You are responsible for seeing that your e-mail is
functioning properly.