

COMP 915 Syllabus for Spring 2019

Technical Communication in Computer Science: Teaching, Speaking, Writing

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Goals

1. To give Ph.D. students an admittedly modest exposure to the literature on teaching techniques and on life as an academic.
2. To lead students in thinking about teaching as a design challenge, not a challenge of presentation of material: The job of the teacher is to design learning experiences.
3. To have students practice techniques of planning, preparation, assignment design, and presentation.

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

1. Find help for common teaching problems in familiar literature.
2. Design a course syllabus and schedule.
3. Select a textbook.
4. Design lessons for varied learning styles.
5. Design exercises and quizzes.
6. Prepare and deliver classes using a variety of different teaching methods.
7. Assign grades fairly.

Policies, logistics, etc.

- A tentative schedule is given on the next page. This schedule should be taken as a working document. It may change, e.g., due to snow days, people dropping or adding the class, unanticipated travel by the instructors, etc. We will keep an up-to-date version on the class webpage.
- Each student will design and lead a 20-minute lesson on a topic of their choice. The 20 minutes is for your lesson as prepared. Questions and discussion are not counted against your time. Your lesson will be videotaped and you are expected to watch the tape.
- Each student will help and critique a partner in their lesson preparation and rehearsal.
- Most assignments will consist of a reading and a two-page essay. Last paper will be the exam.
- **Name, date, and honor code pledge** on everything you give us.
- Note: Much of the material you will receive has been taken verbatim from material prepared previously by Dr. Anderson (with his permission). The original author for most of this material was Dr. Brooks. This class has a closed-laptop, iPad, etc. policy.

Grading: Based on class teaching, assignments, and **participation**. Broad curve. Two free late assignments if turned in next class; other late assignments are half-credit.

Class Time and Location: Fridays, 10:30am-Noon, FB 141.

Web: <https://cs.unc.edu/~aikat/courses/comp915/>

Text: Svinicki & McKeachie, *McKeachie's Teaching Tips*, 14th Edition, 2011, Wadsworth.

It's expensive. Useful if you plan a teaching career. Otherwise, read in Reading Room.

Office Hour: Fridays at 9:00 – 10:00 am, FB 314 (Jay's office)

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Tentative Schedule

Jan 11	1. Intro to the Course (Objectives, How it will Work) Teaching as Design Determine Student Presentation Order, Discuss Role of Coaches	Jay/Fabian Fred Brooks Jay/Fabian
Jan 18	2. Elementary Public Speaking	Fabian
Jan 25	3. Discussion about our learning styles exercise Course Planning: Objectives, Learning Styles, Bloom's Taxonomy Syllabus, Schedule, Textbook Selection	Fabian Jay
Feb 1	4. Active Learning Course Planning - continued	Viji Sathy Jay
Feb 8	5. The Inverted Classroom Student Lessons: Zhiyuan Liu and Ruibin Ma	Kevin Jeffay
Feb 15	6. Brief Discussion on Diversity and Inclusion in Teaching Student Lessons: Chen-Yang Fu, Tom Christy	
Feb 22	7. Student Lessons: Rohan Chabra, Jaesung Park, and Praneeth Chakravarthula	
Mar 1	8. Dealing with Students Who Cause Problems or are Having Problems, When and Where to Get Help, FERPA	Diane Pozefsky
Mar 8	9. Student Lessons: Yipin Zhou, Rui Wang Research: Finding Thesis Topics	Fabian
Mar 15	Spring Break	
Mar 22	10. Research: Finding Thesis Topics Student Lessons: Ming Yang	Fabian
Mar 29	11. Course Planning: Large Classes (Attend a Large Class Before this Class) Student Lesson: Rui Zhang and Kedrian James	Kris Jordan
Apr 5	12. Motivating Students, Providing Students Useful Feedback, Grading, Cheating, The Honor Court Student Lessons: Shiwei Fang and Aaron Smith	Jay/Fabian
Apr 12	13. Quizzes and Examinations; How to Prepare for Oral Exams Student Lessons: Hasan Faik and Qiuyu Xiao	Jay/Fabian
Apr 19	Spring Holiday	
Apr 26	14. Student Lessons: Srihari Pratapa Teacher as a Professional: Economics, Compensation, the Academic Marketplace, Job Talks, Publish or Perish, Time Budgeting, Professional Ethics	Jay/Fabian

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