CIS 771: Software Specifications

Lecture 0: Course Administration

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CIS 771 People

- Instructors
  - Matthew Dwyer
  - John Hatcliff
    Responsible for lectures, making up assignments and exams, running laboratory sections and answering your questions
- Teaching Assistant
  - Songwei Zhou
    Responsible for grading and answering questions
Course Resources

This course will be taught using a combination of resources
• An extensive web-site
• Online lectures
• Laboratory sections
• Reading papers
• Software specification tools
• Homework assignments
• Mid-term and final exams

Course Web-site

- The web-site collects all of the relevant information for the course
  - http://www.cis.ksu.edu/~hatcliff/771
- Readings are linked (with info about how to display papers)
- Daily life
  - Updated during semester (flush your cache)
- Lectures at K-state online linked
  - We won’t use much of K-state onlines capabilities
Online Lectures

- Lectures are self-contained modules
  - Meant to cover a topic
  - May vary in length
- Some lectures will
  - Seem like traditional classroom lectures
  - Be demonstrations of tools
  - Be presentation of significant examples
  - Be presentations of homework assignments
- You can rewatch them as much as you want

Laboratory Sections

- Online lectures do not allow for feedback
  - We need to know if you understand
- Laboratory meetings
  - Once per week for 1.5 hours on Fridays @ 7:50am
  - You ask us questions (on the spot, send us email)
  - We ask you questions (weekly short quizzes)
- Occasionally we'll review material that multiple people have trouble with
Readings

- There is no textbook for this class
  - Perhaps we’ll write one some day
- You will have 8-12 assigned readings
  - Depending on how you count
- Read before the lecture
  - Re-read again after the lecture if needed
- There are additional readings that we can provide if you feel your background is weak

Specification Tools

- People learn best by thinking then doing
  - Then thinking some more and doing some more
- We emphasize tool-based specification methods
  - Alloy, USE, ESC/Java
- Tools will be installed at K-state
  - Most students will want to install them on their own machines
Homework Assignments

- For each tool you learn to work with
  - An introductory homework
  - A significant “mini-project”
- 6 homeworks in total
- Homeworks are to be solved individually
  - Talk to your friends about how to solve abstract problems
  - Do not share parts of your solutions

Examinations

- We believe that you really learn when you study a topic more than once
- Examinations are a mechanism that forces you to do this
  - Mid-term exam, 1.5 hours
  - Final exam, 2.0 hours
- Exams are closed book
  - Off-campus students will need to arrange for a proctor
Grading

- The following weightings will be used to calculate your final grade
  - Homeworks (45%)
  - Quizzes (20%)
  - Mid-term Exam (15%)
  - Final Exam (20%)
- Final grades are not curved
  - A: 90% - 100%, B: 80% - 89%, ...
- There will be no extra credit

Late Work

- Due dates should be taken seriously
  - Students who fall behind in this course tend to fail
- The following policy applies
  - 1% reduction in your score for each hour after the due date/time
- Assignments are turned in online
  - Time stamps will be used to determine lateness
Make up work

- In general there will be no make up quizzes, exams or assignments
- If you have an emergency that prevents you from completing work
  - Contact us prior to the due date

Off-campus versus On-campus

- All of these policies apply to all students
- The only difference will be in the administration of weekly quizzes
  - Off-campus students should send their email address to the teaching assistant prior to January 24, 2002
  - They will receive quizzes via email and will have a window of time in which to send in their response
Surviving this Course

- You will learn a lot in this course
  - It will require a significant amount of time
  - You will need to manage your time
- To get an A you will probably spend
  - 4-6 hour/week : lecture/lab
  - 2-5 hours/week : reading
  - 20-30 hours/tool : learning to use the tool
  - 10-30 hours/assignment : homework
  - 10-20 hours/exam : studying

More survival tips

- Don’t be afraid to ask questions
  - Use our office hours
  - Use email
- The better your preparation the more inclined we will be to help
  - If you haven’t watched the lecture, done the reading, or played with the tool then we’ll have you go away and do those things before answering your questions