

CS3020 Research Forum*

Fall 2023

Mondays, 9:40-10:30 AM in WEB 1250

* While changes to the syllabus are not planned/anticipated, changes/corrections may be made to accommodate the needs of the class and/or changed circumstances. Notifications will be provided via Canvas.

Course Information

Description. Research Forum is a course with a format similar to CS3011 Industry Forum, but with a focus on research. Throughout the semester, students will hear from a number of speakers about the kinds of problems that remain unsolved in computer science and related areas. The majority of speakers will be School of Computing faculty, with some speakers coming from outside the department.

Credit Hours. One.

Objectives. Upon completion of CS3020, students will be able to (a) articulate the motivation for computer science research, (b) describe current research activities in the School of Computing, (c) describe at a high-level advanced research topics in computer science, (d) describe thoughts, opinions, and observations about various research topics in computer science, (e) develop skills through listening and understanding advanced topics, and communicating about those topics, and (f) practice adherence to submitting research material with predefined template and format.

Prerequisites. "C-" or better in CS 2420 AND (Full Major or Minor Status in Computer Science OR Full Major status in Computer Engineering).

Meetings. Mondays, 9:40-10:30 AM in WEB 1250.

Instructor. Tom Henderson. Email: tch@cs.utah.edu Office: 2871 WEB

Class Modalities. This course will be held in person. Except in cases of, for example, ADA accommodations or quarantining due to COVID-19 exposure or infection, you are expected to attend class in person.

Course Materials

Presentation Material. To help students work on their written assignment pertaining to each lecture, we request speakers to provide a copy of their slides and these are made available through Canvas after each lecture.

Website. The course Canvas website is at <https://utah.instructure.com/courses/920204>. We will use Canvas as the primary course information repository, including lecture schedule, assignments, links to course handouts, etc.

Student Evaluation

Attendance. Students are required to attend class in person, except in cases of ADA accommodation, COVID-19 related absences etc. (For the latter special arrangements will be communicated with affected students.) Attendance will be taken and each absence will result in a 2 point deduction from the total point count (out of a possible total of 150 points: 10 for each weekly summary and 30 for the final report).

Grading. Grading for the course will be based on:

- Weekly talk summaries (12 at 10 points each)
- Final report (30 points)

Weekly Talk Summaries. There will be weekly “talk summary” assignments associated with the topic and information presented each week. Written assignments are due Wednesday of the week the lecture is given. Each written assignment should be approximately 0.5 to 1 page in length and consist of two paragraphs:

- What I learned about the subject of the lecture. The first paragraph describes, very briefly, at a high level what the student has learned about the topic and the main points of the lecture. This paragraph should not simply be the outline of the lecture, rather it should reflect the student’s understanding of the lecture.
- My thoughts, opinions, and observations about the subject of the lecture. The second paragraph describes the student’s own thoughts, opinions, and observations about the subject

of the lecture (not on the style or quality of the presentation). For example, students can discuss what they found interesting or uninteresting in the area of research. Students could add what they think is important or challenging about an area or how well suited it would be for their own interests and skills. There are no correct answers to these questions, but the paragraph should reflect the student's own thoughts and observations.

Students are required to follow the formatting requirements detailed in the "Submitting Assignments" section below and use the answer templates (Word or LaTeX) on Canvas.

For a "talk summary" submission to be accepted towards the student's grade, the student must have attended the class. (Or have been accommodated through a special arrangement with the instructor, e.g., ADA or COVID-19 related accommodation.)

Final report. A "final report" written assignment will be due on the end date of classes (7 Dec 2023). The assignment should be approximately 1.5 to 2 pages in length. Formatting requirements are the same as for the weekly talk summaries. (I.e., students can use the same Word or LaTeX templates, of course without the "sections" associated with the weekly talk summaries.)

The final report assignment should cover reading and summarizing a research paper from one of the research areas covered during the course.

Scale for assigning letter grades. 150-139 → A, 138-134 → A-, 133-130 → B+, 129-124 → B, 123-120 → B-, 119-112 → C+, 111-105 → C, 104-98 → C-, 97-90 → D+, 89-83 → D, 82-75 → D-, 74-0 → E.

Submitting assignments. All assignments must be submitted through Canvas.

Assignment format. All assignments must be submitted in PDF format. Students are required to use assignment answer templates (Word or LaTeX) available on Canvas. (Don't modify line-spacing, text color, font size etc.)

Late submissions. Late assignments will be accepted up to two days late with a 10% penalty applied to the obtained grade for each late day.

Exams. There are no exams associated with this course.

Course Policies

Instructor office hours. By appointment. Please send me email to schedule a meeting.

Communication. The instructor will use Canvas for all out of class communication, including

sending urgent messages to the class (e.g., corrections to assignments, changes in due dates etc). For asking questions outside of class, students are encouraged to use the Canvas “Discussions” function or direct email to the instructor.

- If your question is of a general nature—i.e., something that your fellow students might benefit from knowing, or might be able to answer for you—please make use of the Canvas “Discussions” function.
- If the Canvas “Discussions” function seems inappropriate for your question, please send email to the instructor directly.

Wellness statement. Your personal health and wellness are essential to your success as a student. Personal concerns like stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, or cross-cultural differences can interfere with a student’s ability to succeed and thrive in this course and at the University of Utah. For helpful resources to manage your personal wellness and counseling options, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 801-581-7776, <https://wellness.utah.edu/>.

Behavior in class. Students are expected to maintain professional behavior in class according to the University of Utah Student Code, which is available here:

- <https://www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>
- Students should read the Code carefully and know what their responsibilities are. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behavior, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.

Academic misconduct. Please refer to the University of Utah Student Code for a detailed definition and discussion of academic misconduct:

- <https://www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>
- Also please carefully read the updated School of Computing’s Policy Statement on Academic Misconduct (dated August 1, 2022):

- https://www.cs.utah.edu/docs/misc/cheating_policy.pdf
- Given that context; In this course students are encouraged to discuss assignments with fellow classmates. However, each student is responsible for individually completing their own assignments. (For all assignments, the solution submitted by each student will be checked against the solutions of other students for anomalies. In addition, you are to write your own reports – they are not to be generated by AI tools.)

Cheating, misrepresenting one’s work, and plagiarism as defined by the University of Utah Student Code are all forms of “cheating” in this course. Specifically:

- *Cheating includes:* Sharing electronic files either by copying, retyping, looking at, or supplying a copy of a file; filling out attendance for someone else; sharing student specific access codes with someone else; etc. (This list is not exhaustive.)
- *Cheating does not include:* discussing concepts, answering questions about concepts or

clarifying ambiguities, helping someone understand how to use the computer systems or basic tools etc.

Any academic misconduct in this course will be processed according to the sanctions outlined in the School of Computing's Policy Statement on Academic Misconduct.

College of Engineering Policies and Guidelines

For information about adding courses, withdrawing from courses, appealing grades, and more, please refer to the website maintained by the College of Engineering's Office of Academic Affairs.

- College of Engineering Semester Guidelines
<https://www.coe.utah.edu/semester-guidelines>
- College of Engineering's Office of Academic Affairs
<https://www.coe.utah.edu/students/academic-affairs/>

University Policies

The Americans with Disabilities Act. The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 801-581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

University Safety Statement. The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit <https://safeu.utah.edu/>.

Addressing Sexual Misconduct. Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-

581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677 (COPS).

Undocumented Student Support Statement. Immigration is a complex phenomenon with broad impact—those who are directly affected by it, as well as those who are indirectly affected by their relationships with family members, friends, and loved ones. If your immigration status presents obstacles to engaging in specific activities or fulfilling specific course criteria, confidential arrangements may be requested from the Dream Center. Arrangements with the Dream Center will not jeopardize your student status, your financial aid, or any other part of your residence. The Dream Center offers a wide range of resources to support undocumented students (with and without DACA) as well as students from mixed-status families. To learn more, please contact the Dream Center at 801-213-3697 or visit <https://dream.utah.edu/>.

Student Mental Health Resources

- Campus Mental Health Resources
<https://studentaffairs.utah.edu/mental-health-resources/index.php>
- Mental Health First Aid
<https://studentaffairs.utah.edu/mental-health-first-aid.php>
- Wellness-themed Training
<https://wellness.utah.edu/workshops-training/>

COVID-19 Considerations

COVID-19 guidelines. Current COVID-19 guidelines are here:

- https://coronavirus.utah.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/08/Fall-2022-Instructional-Guidelines.final_.pdf