

NET 450: Senior Project/Thesis Syllabus

Fall 2008

Instructor: Jim Hoag

Instructor Contact Information:

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Office Location: West 108

Course Description:

NET 450, Senior Project/Thesis

A senior research project to be completed in collaboration with a faculty member. Students will design a project that will include a research component and an application component. The project will address a contemporary computer information system industry challenge. Students will be required to demonstrate their understanding of the subject by presenting and demonstrating the applied elements of their research. Presentations and demonstrations will be made to faculty, students, and invited guests. The literature research and experience will be documented in a paper.

Prerequisites: Senior standing.

Must be a Computer & Information Security major only. Must complete 90 credits before taking this course.

Instructional Approach

There is less direct supervision in this course than in other undergraduate courses and you will be responsible for your own time management. I won't nag you but will expect you to meet the deadlines. I am available for help but the primary responsibility for successful completion rests with you.

Resources

The library web site is: <http://campus.champlain.edu/MIC>. Be sure to check out the Student section for research projects and for the online journal databases. The writing lab can be reached at: WritingLab@Champlain.edu You are expected to have **at least 70%** of your literature citations come from non-Google sources. You're expected to use authoritative sites rather than casual, nonprofessional sources. Don't waste time with Google: You'll spend more time wading through irrelevant and non-authoritative resources. Make friends now with the library web site and the library staff. There are a number of good online, professional databases available through the library and there are a number of good print sources too. Browse the stacks for ideas and sources.

There are several major deliverables. They are: (1) Project description; (2) Literature research outline and bibliography (3) Project outline (4) progress reports on project (5) Literature research draft; (6) Project experience and results draft (7) The oral thesis defense (8) Final written paper. The written paper will be between 15-20 (double-spaced) pages in length exclusive of appendices and the bibliography. The oral defense will take place at the end of the course and will be delivered to a panel of faculty and fellow students. The final grade will be based on these deliverables.

The **process** of developing the project is important too. You will be doing research, writing, and problem solving throughout the semester. The skills exercised in the thesis creation will be important to you in your career as you tackle real problems in the real world. The thesis project gives you a chance to hone these skills.

Grade

Grade will be comprised of performance on deliverables

Project description 10%

Literature research outline and bibliography 10%

Project outline and timeline 10%

progress reports on project (20%)

Literature research draft 10%

Project experience and results draft 10%

Oral project presentation 10%

Final written paper 20%

Attendance Policy:

Failure to stay in contact and/or a failure to produce deliverables will dramatically affect your grade. **No kidding.** Take these dates seriously or you won't make it in this class. The grad for each deliverable will be reduced by 10% per day late, unless other arrangements have been made with the instructor.

Academic Honesty:

Here's the formal statement:

"In the preparation and presentation of any assigned work-including examinations, tests, quizzes, term papers, reports, themes and other written or oral exercises-every student shall conform to a strict standard of academic honesty. Any attempt to deceive a faculty member or to help another student to do so will be considered a violation of this standard. In all assignments, students must acknowledge the words and/or ideas of others taken from print or electronic media, whether a direct quotation or a paraphrase; any omission of this is dishonest. Cheating on examinations or tests consists of knowingly giving, receiving or using-or attempting to give, receive or use-unauthorized assistance during an examination or test. A faculty member may record a grade of "zero" for any assignment on which a student has plagiarized or cheated. For repeat offenses within a single course, the faculty member may record a grade of "F" for the course. Violations of this policy in multiple courses may result in dismissal from the College. A student may appeal these decisions according to the Academic Grievance Procedure."

In practice this means that you should submit only your own original work. It is certainly acceptable to use short quotes from others but don't try to pass off someone else's work as your own. Copy and paste from the Internet is easy to do but also easy to detect. I have a number of sophisticated tools at my disposal. Don't do it. Students have failed this course because of

plagiarism. If you have any questions about "copy and paste" please ask before submitting work.

Disability Policy:

If you believe that you have a disability requiring accommodations in this class, please contact the Coordinator of Support Services for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible. After you receive a letter documenting the appropriate accommodations, please see me so I can work with you to implement them in a timely fashion. It is the student's responsibility to seek and secure accommodations prior to the start of a test or project.

Contact:

Janine Allo – office: Hauke 007; phone: 802-651-5961; email: allo@champlain.edu

Schedule

Week		Deliverable
Sept 2	Course begins	
Sept 8	Begin discussion of possible projects	
Sept 26		Project Description
Oct 3		Project Timeline
Oct 10		Research Outline and Bibliography.
Oct 17		Project Outline
Oct 24- Nov 21		Progress Reports
Nov 21		Research Literature Draft
Dec 1		Project experience and results draft
Dec 8		Oral Presentation
Dec 15		Final paper