Course Outline

COMP9930
Readings in Comp Sci and Eng
Teaching Period 2 2012

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Course Staff

Contact Details

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Course Summary

COMP9930 is a seminar course analysing topical research papers in CSE. Each participating student will be assigned a small number of related recent research papers. These papers will usually be in the general area of the students' PhD research topic but not directly related to their topic. The student will do a critical analysis of the papers and present it in a report and a seminar. At the seminar the student's analysis are discussed with peers and academic staff. The purpose is to help the student get started in the field, and learn to analyse and constructively criticise others' research.

Course Details

Course Code:	COMP9930
Course Title:	Readings in Comp Sci and Eng
Units of Credit:	6
Course WebSite:	http://www.cse.unsw.edu.au/~cs9930/
Handbook Entry:	http://www.handbook.unsw.edu.au/research/courses/2012/COMP9930.html

Course Aims

The course aims is to help the student get started in the field, and learn to analyse and constructively criticise others' research.

Student Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, students will:

- be able to conduct a literature survey
- critically analyse research papers
- summarise research relevant to a chosen topic and assess its importance

This course contributes to the development of the following graduate attributes:

Graduate Attribute
the skills involved in scholarly enquiry

the capacity for analytical and critical thinking
the ability to engage in independent and reflective learning
the skills to locate, evaluate and use relevant information (Information Literacy)
the capacity for enterprise, initiative and creativity
a capacity to contribute to, and work within, the international community
the skills of effective communication

Assumed Knowledge

There is no assumed knowledge for this course.

Teaching Rationale

This course aims to develop a student's research skills and ability to conduct critical analysis. The supervisor will provide guidance and advice but the student is expected to take ownership of the topic and exercise their initiative in exploring the topic.

Teaching Strategies

The course aims to develop a student's ability to conduct independent research. Therefore, a supervisor is assigned to the student for the purpose of providing advice and guidance.

Assessment

The basic structure of the COMP9930 reading course is the following:

1. COMP9930 PROPOSAL: At the commencement of session, the SUPERVISOR should submit to the LiC (who is the Postgraduate Research Coordinator) the following:
    1. A research proposal (about 1 page in length)
    2. A statement what the relevance of this research is to the candidate's postgraduate thesis research (which variant in other words).
    3. Name of the assessor
    4. Milestones: dates at which Progress Reports will be submitted to the supervisor. Typically in week 3 and week 6.
    5. The assessment regime, particularly how the final mark will be determined: see below.
2. ASSESSMENT: The course is assessed on the basis of a final report and a seminar, but there are also progress reports and a draft of the final report.
    - Progress Reports
        - Progress Reports should be sent to the supervisor regularly. These are not formally assessed, but the supervisor is expected to give feedback.
        - There is no special format for the progress reports.
    - Draft of the Final Report
        - A draft of the final report should be submitted to the supervisor and assessor on the Monday in week 10.
        - There is no special format for this document.
    - Seminar
        - A seminar of 30 minutes should be held in week 11.
        - The LiC should be notified the date, time and place.
        - The seminar is assessed by the supervisor and assessor, who should agree on a mark. There is hence a single seminar mark.
        - The student should use the critical feedback that he/she receives in the seminar to revise (if necessary) the draft of the final report.
    - Final Report
        - The student should submit the final report within 2 weeks of the seminar to the supervisor and assessor.
        - The supervisor and assessor should mark the final report independently, so there are 2 final report marks.
    - Marking Scheme
        - The student should be made aware of the marking scheme at the start of session.
        - Typically the seminar is worth 20% and the report 80% of the final mark, but this can be varied depending on circumstances (the LiC should be notified).
        - The guidelines for assessing the seminar can be taken from Thesis A. The guidelines for assessing the final report can be taken from Thesis B.
        - In broad terms, the assessment should consider the communication skills as well as the content.
        - The final report mark will be an average between the supervisor and assessor (if they are within 10 marks).
        - The supervisor should send to the LiC the following:
            - Name of student

- Name of assessor
- The marking scheme
- The single seminar mark
- The two final report marks
- The resulting course mark

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as "using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own". UNSW and CSE treat plagiarism as academic misconduct, which means that it carries penalties as severe as being excluded from further study at UNSW. There are several on-line sources to help you understand what plagiarism is and how it is dealt with at UNSW:

- Learning Centre: Plagiarism and Academic Integrity
- MyUNSW: Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct
- CSE: Addendum to UNSW Plagiarism Guidelines
- CSE: Yellow Form (whose terms you have agreed to)

Make sure that you read and understand these. Ignorance is not accepted as an excuse for plagiarism.

Course Schedule

It is anticipated that regular meeting between student and supervisor will be arranged at the start the course.

Course Evaluation and Development

This course is evaluated each session using the CATEI system.