CSCE 990 – Empirical Software Engineering  
Fall 2013: TR: 9:30-10:45  
http://www.cse.unl.edu/~asarma/csce_990_f13.html

Instructor  
Anita Sarma (362 Avery, asarma@cse.unl.edu)  
Email: Use ‘CSCE 990’ in Subject line for prompt response  
Office hours: W: 9:00-11:00 am, or by appointment

Required course texts:  
http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/index.php

Topics to be covered: Quantitative study design, Qualitative study designs, Measurement and data collection, State-of-the-practice, Archival data analysis, Human variation & impact of experience, Evidence-based software engineering • Simulation of software process. In addition to these topics, we will review and discuss papers that use empirical studies to examine different software technologies. Some topics may be removed or added depending upon the progression of the course and the interests of the students.

Course Pre-Requisite: Basic understanding of statistics

Course Expectations:  
- There will be two 75 minutes lectures per week. In addition, students should expect to spend 6 additional hours per week on reading, study, and projects.  
- You are expected to regularly check your email and/or Blackboard announcements so as to not miss important announcements  
- You are expected to be prepared for class, participate in discussions, and ask and answer questions. Only a few of the class sessions will be structured as lectures. For most of the term, we will explore existing research by reading papers and discussing those papers in class. Over the course of the term, each of you will present the results from at least one particular paper in class, and then lead subsequent in-class discussion of that paper

Term project (40%): Tentative milestone schedule for project:  

- Project proposal (P1 - 5 pts)  
- Experimental design (P2 - 10 pts)  
- Mid term report (P3 - 5 pts)  
- Study materials/ raw data (5 pts)  
- Final report + presentation (10+5 pts)

Assignments (40%); there will be 4 assignments

Paper reviews (5%); Paper presentation (5%)

Class participation (5%)

Peer and Instructor evaluation (5%): You will be evaluated by the instructor and your teammates (if project is in a team) on your performance.

Grading Scheme:

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>101+</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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A minimum grade of C is required to get a Pass in the course (A grade ‘C-’ does NOT get you a pass)  
A minimum grade of C is required for the course to count toward a CS/CE major or minor
Grading
- Paper reviews are for papers that will be discussed in class for that day. Classes that require paper reviews will be marked in the schedule.
- All Assignments will have clearly marked due dates. Assignments are due before the beginning of class (9:30 pm).
- No late assignments will be accepted.
- There are no exams for the class.

Gadget policy: No cell phones, IPods, or Laptops allowed in class unless needed for class. Failure to follow will lead to penalty

Feedback and Facilities:
- The CSE Department has an anonymous suggestion box that you may use to voice your concerns about any problems in the course or department if you do not wish to be identified: http://cse.unl.edu/department/suggestion.php
- You can avail of the Student Resource Center in Avery 13A: http://cse.unl.edu/src

Academic Misconduct
All homework assignments, quizzes, exams, etc. must be your own work. No direct collaboration with fellow students, past or current, is allowed unless otherwise stated. The Computer Science & Engineering department has an Academic Integrity Policy. All students enrolled in any computer science course are bound by this policy. You are expected to read, understand, and follow this policy. Violations will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and may result in a failing assignment or a failing grade for the course itself: http://cse.unl.edu/ugrad/resources/academic_integrity.php

Special Needs
Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor or the TA for a confidential discussion of your individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodations to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY.

Some Important University Dates for Fall 2012. Refer to UNL academic calendar for the full set of dates
- September 2, Labor day holiday
- September 3, Last day for late registration and adds, and drops for full refund
- September 6, Last day to drop course from record without receiving a "w"
- October 21-22, Fall Break
- November 15, Last day to withdraw
- December 9-14, Last week of classes