**Freshman Orientation to Computer Science and Engineering**

**CSCE 10 – Pass/No Pass Only – 0 Credit Hours**

**Fall 2014 (updated 9/11/2014)**

**Instructor**

Prof. Charles Riedesel, Chief Undergraduate Advisor –

Computer Science & Engineering

259 Avery Hall

chuckr@unl.edu

402-472-3486

For calendar go to <http://cse.unl.edu/~riedesel> and follow link to appointments; drop in or email for confirmation of meeting time

**Teaching Assistant**

Senad Salja

senad.salja@gmail.com

**Course Materials**

Syllabus and other materials will be posted at either <http://cse.unl.edu/~riedesel/pub/cse10> or

on Piazza - <https://piazza.com/class/hz9ztl80wuh72v>

**Catalog Description**

CSCE 10 - *Introduction to CSE:*Optional *(it has just been made a required course!)* pass/no pass course designed to help incoming first-year CSE students in their transition into the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the Computer Science and Engineering department. The course introduces various departmental resources and policies, explore possible career paths, fields, and opportunities available to a computer scientist or computer engineer. Assignments may include attending department orientations and lectures, a student organization meeting, and on-campus activities including Career Fair, E-Week, and Research Fair.

**Course Organization**

Class will be held weekly from 5:30-6:20pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays for most of the semester. An expected 200 students will be enrolled, approximately split between the two days. The room, Avery 115, is quite large and the sections will be handled the same, so students are welcome to switch back and forth. Attendance rosters will be handed around the room during each session.

This is not a typical lecture course. No text is required. Activities will be experiential in nature and include tours, interviews, etc. Class sessions will include guest speakers and panels, especially panels of students who will share with you their experiences at UNL, in organizations, work, research, etc. These sessions will be informal and interactive.

**Grading**

There will be no exams and no final exam. There will be activities that involve attendance at events outside the regular class time. In order to pass, students must accumulate sufficient points in three different categories:

1. *Attendance:* Attendance is worth 1 point for each session – a minimum of 8 points must be earned.
2. *Foundation:* Foundation Activities are worth 1 point each – At least 7 points must be earned.
3. *Broadening:* Broadening Activities are worth 1 point each – At least 5 points must be earned.

Moreover, a minimum total of 25 points overall must be earned. Some activities are graded on a scale of 1-100. A grade of at least 75 must be attained in order to earn the point for such an activity.

For activities that involve handing in reports, submission will be electronic with deadlines set to the middle of “dead week”. Some may be resubmitted for a higher grade, but only if they are submitted before Thanksgiving Break. Details will be provided later.

**Schedule**

Some sessions will be scheduled around availability of guest speakers and timing of special events such as the Fall Career Fair, the local ACM Programming Contest, and Priority Registration for spring semester. These may require modifications to the preliminary schedule.

**Important Dates**

* *First Sessions:* Wednesday and Thursday August 27 and 28
* *Engineering Involvement Fair:* Tuesday September 2, 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm in the Othmer Hall lobby
* *Education Abroad Fair:* Tuesday September 23, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm, Nebraska Union; *also 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm, Othmer Hall especially for Engineering (including Computer Science)*
* *Fall Career Fair:*Tuesday September 30, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm (everyone attends at least a portion)
* *Priority Registration for Spring:* Monday October 27 – Tuesday November 11, freshmen will have Friday November 7 – Tuesday November 11.

**Academic Integrity Policy**

Everyone in the Department is expected to understand and abide by our policy. This will be a topic of discussion very early in the course. See <http://cse.unl.edu/ugrad/resources/academic_integrity.php> for the document.

**Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation 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

**Class Sessions** *(not necessarily in order – attend at least 8)*

1. *Introductions* – Administration, Professors of Practice (POPs) and Research Faculty, Food **(August 24/25)**
2. *Managing the Academics* – Student Panel to discuss work load, study skills, finding resources, group work, integrity policy, informal education opportunities
3. *Undergraduate Research* – Student Panel to discuss involvement in UCARE, working in our research labs, and relevance to graduate studies
4. *Careers* – Career Services representative to discuss preparing for the Fall Career Fair **(September 10/11)**
5. *Employment* – Employer Panel to discuss preparation for internships and eventual employment
6. *Opportunities* – Panel of recent graduates to discuss how their choices led them to where they are today
7. *Internships* – Student Panel to share experiences in finding internships; sharing of final reports for CSCE 491 *Internship for Credit*
8. *Involvement* – Panel to discuss becoming an Undergraduate TA (UTA), student organizations, ACM Programming Contest, Entrepreneurship, faculty committees, etc.
9. *LinkedIn* – Panel to discuss professional organizations and other connections to the wider world of computing
10. *Computing across the Curriculum* – Panel to discuss Study Abroad, minors in Business, languages, digital humanities, sciences, etc.
11. *Our Curriculum* – Panel to discuss why we include Software Engineering, Computer Organization, Theory, Communication Skills, the Liberal Arts, etc.
12. *Wider World of Engineering & Science* – Panel presentation of other directions for engineering and science students.
13. *Debriefings and Course Assessment* – Discussion, pizza

**Foundation Activities** (do at least 7)

1. *Write an essay*: “What the Department’s Academic Integrity Policy Means to Me”.
2. Learn a computing technology outside the regular classroom – *Report on what and how you learned*.
3. Visit with at least 3 employers at the Fall Career Fair – *Report on your findings.* **(Tuesday, September 30)**
4. Join tours of three research labs in the department *(attendance taken)*.
5. *Prepare a weekly work schedule* and follow it.
6. *Develop a four-year plan of studies*.
7. *Prepare a resume* and *statement of purpose.*
8. Visit with an advisor to plan for spring semester *(attendance taken)*.
9. Attend the Engineering Involvement Fair and *report on it*. **(Tuesday, September 2)**

**Broadening Activities** (do at least 5)

1. Get involved in a student organization or program – *Report on it*.
2. Collaborate with a team of students on a non-class, computing-related project – *Document it*.
3. Pick an application area for computing – *Report on it*.
4. Complete a computing course project that goes beyond the minimum requirements – *Submit documentation*.
5. *Write an essay*: “How Can I Use Computing to Improve My World”.
6. Pick an area of research and Interview a researcher – *Report on it*.
7. Practice and compete in the local ACM Programming Contest – *attendance taken*.
8. Take a tour of the facilities of one of our employing companies – *Report on it*.
9. Contribute something that increases the sense of welcoming inclusiveness for the diverse set of students engaged in computing – *Report on it*.
10. Attend the UNL or Engineering Education Abroad Fair – *Report on it*. **(Tuesday, September 23)**

**Other Items:**

* The CSE Department has an anonymous contact form that you may use to voice your concerns about any problems in the course or department if you do not wish to be identified. See <http://cse.unl.edu/contact-form>.
* It is CSE Department policy that all students in CSE courses are expected to regularly check their email so they do not miss important announcements.
* TA office hours are in the Student Resource Center (SRC) which is at Avery 13A. See <http://cse.unl.edu/src>
* This syllabus may be updated and expanded as the semester progresses.