CSE/ISE 300 Communication  F11

• Time: Tue/Thur 5:20-6:40PM
• Location: Room 102  Light Engineering
• Required Book: The Elements of Style, 4th edition (2000), Authors: Strunk and White $10 (or $4 2007 reprint by Coyote)
• Online Technical Writing, Author: David A. McMurrey  http://www.io.com/~hcexres/textbook/
• Recommended Textbook: Pocket Guide to Technical Communication, 5th ed. (2011).  Author: Pfeiffer $42 list; $33 Amazon ($26+$4 used)
• Instructor: Professor Larry Wittie  TA: Sean Munson
• Office: CS Building, Room 1308  TA Office: 2110 CSB
• Phone: 631-632-8750 (not 2-8456)  TA Hours: 11AM-1PM, Weds
• Email: lw@ic.sunysb.edu  TA Email: smunson@cs.stonybrook.edu
• Office Hours: 3:45-5:15PM Tue & Thu or by appointment
• Course Homepage: http://www.cs.sunysb.edu/~lw/teaching/cse300

Quiz 1 grades available Thursday 1Dec11. Term exam in class Thurs 1Dec11. Submit revised paper2 (only if graded B-, C, C-) before 5:20pm, Tues 29Nov11, both printed paper2 in class and e-copy source file by email to lw@ic… .

Final paper 3 due Tues 6Dec11, 4 to 6 pages, printed + emailed to lw@ic… .
Open book(s), closed friends, no wireless, no computers. You may bring printed copies of the lecture slides.

It will cover the Elements of Style text by Strunk & White and all lectures, especially the word distinctions from Pocket Guide to Technical Communication by Pfeiffer. Read Elements of Style before the exam.

Most questions will be “multiple choice” or short phrase “fill in the blanks”. This exam counts for 8% of your grade.
Grades for your New Computer talks were emailed to you Monday night. The ten people who received B- or lower on their talks may elect to redo them on Thu 8 Dec. If you want a retry, by Fri 2 Dec email lw@ic..., Subject: redo 300 talk.

If your new talk score is higher, your grade will improve by half the difference.
CSE/ISE 300
Edited, Graded Drafts for Paper 3 Returned Today

Counts of Paper3 Draft Grades

A: 8
B+: 8
B: 4
C: 6
D: 2
CSE/ISE 300
Suggestions for Paper 3 Contents

In grading paper 3, I expect to see a number of factual details that will help a programmer if she has to modify your code:

**What are the code’s major function, its inputs and its results?**

Who wrote the code, for what initial purpose, and when?

Tersely, what are the major algorithms and data structures? (Do not enumerate every module, like every tree in a forest.)

What are the major limitations of the code, its internal data structures, and any data structures assumed for its inputs?

How thoroughly was the code tested and with what input data (an appendix should list one or more complete test sets)?

What code parts do not yet work? What is needed to fix them?

What portions of the code are particularly tricky and may cause undesired side effects if changed hastily?

What changes would you have made to the code if you had had more time to work on it? Why would they have improved it?

What special advice do you give anyone changing the code?
The final and major paper for this course will be due Tues 6 December, both a printed version submitted at start of class and a single source file (doc or docx) email to lw@ic… with the Subject line containing 300 paper 3 code. Paper 3 counts for 30% of your cumulative score, which will determine your final course grade of A, B, C, or F. A passing grade is mandatory for graduation.

Your paper 3 must be four to six prose text pages of effective final documentation for a significantly large program that you have written. The code should be 100 to 600 lines that you personally have written and must be included as an appendix to your paper. All the rules for what counts as text in the first two papers apply for paper 3. The code in the appendix and any code quoted in the body of your paper do not count in the minimum of four pages.

Your prose must be interesting to read but must explain your code carefully enough that another professional can take responsibility for it and easily make changes to maintain and improve it.
CSE/ISE 300
Size Requirements for Paper 3

Paper 3 must be at least 4 pages long, excluding lines that do not contain English prose text written by you and excluding the appendices. To be safe on length, aim for 5 pages of counted lines with a total of 150 lines and 1,800 words that count.

Remember that only prose lines written by you count - not tables of contents, tables of figures, section headers, figures, tables, captions for figures or tables, numbered or bulleted lists, blank lines, quoted text, reference to sources, the title for your paper, or your name.

However, most of the non-counted items can make your paper more interesting to read and improve your grade. Full text lines must be at least 6 inches wide and contain an average 12 to 15 words. Each full page must have 30 or more lines (whether or not counted) spaced by 1.5, not single-spaced and not double-spaced.