

COSC 382 Semester Project

Fall 2009

We have now covered enough of the course material that you should be ready to begin working on your semester project. The project is intended to give you a chance to research a particular programming language in some depth and present your results to the class.

Important project dates

ASAP Submit your proposed topic. No duplicate topics – approval will be FIFO.
11/13 Proposals due.
12/7 Presentations will begin.
12/11 Written papers due.

Possible topics

- Analysis of a programming language (one not already covered in class): Objective C, Ruby, Boo, C#, D, Eiffel, Ada, APL, MATLAB, Visual Basic, PHP, Common Lisp, Haskell...
- Comparison of two programming languages (relative to a particular framework or problem type – this might be especially good for a collaborative project).
- A theoretical topic in programming languages: compiler theory, runtime systems, metaprogramming, automated reasoning, knowledge representation...
- A special purpose language: SOAR, Cycl, VRML, LaTeX, SGML, Postscript, RDFa, SAS, KIF...

Be sure to consider availability of development resources (compilers, etc) in your topic selection.

Deliverables

Your project will have three deliverables:

1. A brief **proposal** for topic selection. This should be less than one page, and should clearly identify the topic you are proposing along with 3-5 references. The standard for this proposal is approximately “what one could learn with a half hour of web research.”
2. An in-class **presentation** of 6-10 minutes. Grading criteria include content and delivery (timeliness, preparation, organization, use of AV support as appropriate). In addition to the allotted presentation time, there will be an additional 2 minutes for questions.
3. A research **paper** of 6-8 pages plus bibliography. Grading criteria will include both content (accuracy, relevance, completeness) and style (organization, clarity, conciseness, freedom from grammatical & typographic errors). In-text citations and bibliography should be in standard APA style.

Grading

Grading will be as follows:

5%	Proposal (content & style)
35%	Presentation (content & delivery)
60%	Written paper (content & style)