SJSU SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Science · Computer Science

Preparation for Writing Project or Thesis

CS 297

Fall 2025 Sections 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 In Person 3 Unit(s) 08/20/2025 to 12/08/2025
Modified 08/18/2025

Contact Information

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Office Hours

Tuesday, Thursday, 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM, MH 216

Note: Feel free to drop by my office during office hours—no appointment needed.

Course Information

This course guides graduate students in preparing for their master's project or thesis. Students will learn how to define a research problem, conduct literature reviews, select methodologies, prepare a project plan, and draft a thesis/project proposal. In addition, students will gain hands-on experience with initial project implementation or prototyping and, where applicable, will be guided through the Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval process.

Course Description and Requisites

Supervised individual research and project work to prepare for a Master's writing project or thesis.

Prerequisite(s): Fully classified standing in the MS Computer Science, MS Bioinformatics, or MS Data Science program, department chair consent. Not available to Open University Students.

CR/NC/I Graduate

Program Information

Diversity Statement - At SJSU, it is important to create a safe learning environment where we can explore, learn, and grow together. We strive to build a diverse, equitable, inclusive culture that values, encourages, and supports students from all backgrounds and experiences.

Course Requirements and Assignments

- Assignments: **25%**
- Draft IRB Form: **10%**
- Initial Implementation / Prototype Demo: **15%**
- Proposal Presentation: **20%**
- Final Proposal Document: **30%**

Grading Information

Criteria

Student development projects will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Fulfillment of all required features and project specifications.
- Reliability and effectiveness of the implemented features under expected usage.
- Overall quality of submitted work, including clarity, structure, and quality of code, as well as any required documentation.

Missed Assignments or Exams

If a student must miss an assignment deadline or exam due to illness or another emergency, the situation must be reported within one week of the due date.

Determination of Grades

Semester grades will be determined using a weighted average based on the scores earned in the specified categories. Late submissions of homework or other assignments will not be accepted. Additionally, in-class activities must be completed within the student's assigned section.

Nominal Grading Scale:

Percentage	Grade
94% and above	A
90	A-

87	B+
83	B
80	B-
77	C+
73	C
70	C-
67	D+
63	D
60	D-
Below 60	F

Note: Please be aware that numerical grades will not be rounded when converting to letter grades. For instance, a final score of 93.9% will result in an A-, not an A.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9 (PDF) (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the Syllabus Information (https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

The course schedule is subject to change with one week's notice.

Week	Topic	Note

1	Introduction	
2	Identifying research problems and project goals	
3	Literature review strategies; citation management	
4	Writing the literature review; identifying research gaps	
5	Research methodologies in computer science (theoretical, experimental, applied, design-based)	
6	Structuring the thesis/project proposal	
7	Research ethics and IRB overview	
8	Drafting IRB application	
9	Problem statement and research objectives submission	
10	Drafting methodology section and experimental/prototyping design	
11	Initial project implementation or prototype development checkpoint (progress report)	
12	Project planning	
13	Academic writing styles and formatting	
14	Proposal presentations	
15	Revising and integrating feedback	
16	Submission of final proposal	