

CMPT 868: Social Computing

Department of Computer Science
University of Saskatchewan
2013-14, Term 02

Course Description

The course will cover a variety of topics related to the emerging area of Social Computing and Participative Web. It will discuss theories, technologies and human issues of Web 2.0: how people network online, what communities they form, why they participate and contribute, and how to design infrastructures for successful online communities.

The course will have three interwoven components. Analytical, which discusses how people act and participate in different kinds of communities, based on observational studies. The theoretical component will focus on analyzing the interactions in online communities from different perspectives: physics and dynamics of complex emergent systems, behavioral economics, social psychology and sociology. Using the insights gained from theory, the practical component of the course will focus on how to design and use environments to successfully support online communities and participative web applications

Prerequisites

Web programming class / industrial experience in web programming

Lecture Information

Thursday, 5:00 - 7:50 pm, Thorv. S386

Instructor Information

Instructor: Julita Vassileva

Contact: jiv@cs.usask.ca

Office Hours: Monday or Friday, by email appointment

Textbook Information

Recommended Texts

- Steven Johnson (2000) *Emergence*, Scribner, NY.
- Albert Laszlo Barabasi (2002) *Linked*, Plume.
- James Surowiecki (2004) *Wisdom of Crowds*, Random House
- Dan Ariely (2008) *Predictably Irrational*, Harper Collins
- Charlene Li, Josh Bernoff (2008) *Groundswell*, Forrester Research
- Joshua Porter (2008) *Designing for the Social Web*, New Riders: Berkley, CA.
- Malcolm Gladwell (2001) *The Tipping Point*,
- Seth Godin (2008) *Tribes*, Penguin.
- Amy Jo Kim (2000) *Community Building on the Web: Secret Strategies for Successful Online Communities*, PDF available for purchase
online <http://www.peachpit.com/store/product.aspx?isbn=0321488911>

Lecture Topics

- **Social Computing and Participative Web (Web 2.0)**

List of Topics

COMMUNITIES

- Sharing Content, Trading and Playing,
- Discussions and Socialization: Forums, Bulletin Boards, Chat, IM,
- Publishing: Blogs and Wikis, Wikipedia Social Networking
- Coding: Open Source Movement

THEORIES

- Analytic Theories: Metcalfe's law, Network effects, Scale-Free networks
- Economic Theories: Wisdom of Crowds, Games, Reciprocation and Norms
- Behavioural Theories: Social Psychology, Sociology, Organizational Science

TECHNOLOGIES

- Search for Common Meaning: Personal Information Management, Tagging, Community Ontologies, Semantic web;
- Recommender Systems, community awareness /visualization
- Trust and Reputation Mechanisms, [Social Network Analysis](#)
- Motivating Participation – incentive mechanisms,
- Building Communities and Putting them to Work

Policies

Missed Examinations

1. "Students who have missed an exam or assignment must contact their instructor as soon as possible. Arrangements to make up the exam may be arranged with the instructor. Missed exams throughout the year are left up to the discretion of the instructor if a student may make up the exam or write at a different time. If a student knows prior to the exam that she/he will not be able to attend, they should let the instructor know before the exam."
2. "Final exams - a student who is absent from a final examination through no fault of his or her own, for medical or other valid reasons, may apply to the College of Arts and Science Dean's office. The application must be made within three days of the missed examination along with supporting documentary evidence. Deferred exams are written during the February mid-term break for Term 1 courses and in early June for Term 2 and full year courses."

(2007/08. <http://www.arts.usask.ca/students/transition/tips.php>)

Incomplete Course Work and Final Grades

"When a student has not completed the required course work, which includes any assignment or examination including the final examination, by the time of submission of the final grades, they may be granted an extension to permit completion of an assignment, or granted a deferred examination in the case of absence from a final examination. Extensions for the completion of assignments must be approved by the Department Head, or Dean in non-departmentalized Colleges, and may exceed thirty days only in unusual circumstances. The student must apply to the instructor for such an extension and furnish satisfactory reasons for the deficiency. Deferred final examinations are granted as per College policy.

In the interim, the instructor will submit a computed percentile grade for the course which factors in the incomplete course work as a zero, along with a grade comment of INF (Incomplete Failure) if a failing grade. In the case where the instructor has indicated in the course outline that failure to complete the required course work will result in failure in the course, and the student has a computed passing percentile grade, a final grade of 49% will be submitted along with a grade comment of INF (Incomplete Failure).

If an extension is granted and the required assignment is submitted within the allotted time, or if a deferred examination is granted and written in the case of absence from the final examination, the instructor will submit a revised computed final percentage grade. The grade change will replace the previous grade and any grade comment of INF (Incomplete Failure) will be removed.

For provisions governing examinations and grading, students are referred to the University Council Regulations on Examinations section of the Calendar.

(2007/08 University of Saskatchewan Calendar/Exams & Grades/Grading System)

Department Policy on Academic Honesty

Students are expected to be academically honest in all of their scholarly work, including course assignments and examinations. Academic honesty is defined and described in the Department of Computer Science Statement on Academic Honesty (<http://www.cs.usask.ca/content/academichonesty/academichonesty.jsp>) and the University of Saskatchewan Academic Honesty Website (<http://www.usask.ca/honesty>).

The Student Academic Affairs Committee treats all cases according to the University Policy and has the right to apply strict academic penalties (see http://www.usask.ca/university_secretary/honesty/academic_misconduct.php).

Student Evaluation

1) Grading Scheme

- Assignment -- 15%
- Project - 40 %
- Presentation - 30%
- Weekly Collaborative Wiki Participation - 15%

3) Attendance expectations

You are expected to attend all lectures and labs. No notes on the lectures or labs will be made available by the instructor, so if you do miss a class it is up to you to catch up with the help of one, or more, of your peers.

IMPORTANT! Please read:

1. All students must be properly registered in order to attend lectures and receive credit for this course.
2. Failure to write the final exam will result in failure of the course.
3. Failure to complete required course work will result in failure of the course.