

COMP/ELEC 526 Student Presentations

Fall 2003

Presentation of results is an essential component of any research program, whether in academia or industry, and regardless of field. Thus, student presentations of course material are mandatory for the course COMP/ELEC 526. This document describes the format and requirements of these student presentations.

1 Format

Student presentations will be held on most Fridays starting from the 3rd week of class, as indicated on the course calendar (see the home page). The student presentation topics have been chosen by the instructor in order to tie in effectively with the main course material. Most student presentations cover case studies based on systems that implement the fundamental technologies discussed in the lectures that will immediately precede the presentations.

Since class sessions are 50 minutes long, students should prepare roughly 30–40 minutes worth of material and reserve the rest of the class period for questions and discussion. Students should seriously consider reviewing the presentation in advance with a peer in order to work out any serious problems in presentation or facts.

2 Requirements for Presenters

The presentation will be graded in equal parts for technical coverage, presentation style, and accessibility to the audience. The technical content for each presentation will generally be made available at least one week before the actual presentation. Presenters would be well-advised to study Professor Mark Hill's oral presentation advice and David Patterson's guide to giving a bad talk (linked from the course handouts page).

All students will sign up for presentations on September 3rd in class. Please check the course calendar for the list of presentations. Each presenter should bring enough copies of the peer-review form for the other students to fill out (see below).

3 Requirements for Other Students

All other students will anonymously review each presentation. The review form is available at the course web page, and each presenter will provide copies for the other students. These reviews will be made available to both the instructor and the presenter.

All students should acquaint themselves with the course materials covered in the presentations for at least three reasons. First, well-informed peers will generally provide better comments in their reviews and better input during the discussion. Second, many of the presentations cover matters that are important for general knowledge in parallel computer architecture, including case studies. Finally, the material of the presentations may be covered in the exam.