Term Paper Assignment

Write an Analytical Research Paper

CS 3398 Fall 2013
Instructor: Jill Seaman

Due: Monday 11/25/2013, 10:00 am (submit via Assignments tool in TRACS)

Assignment: Write an analytical research paper on a problem in Software Engineering.

Purpose of the Paper: To provide the reader with a view of solutions to a given software engineering problem that is well organized and supported. The paper should explain the main problem and why it is important. It should summarize the various existing approaches, methods, and/or practices for solving the problem. It should compare and evaluate these approaches and describe future directions or possible improvements.

Requirements:
· 2000-2400 words (not including Title page or References), double-spaced.
· Font: Times New Roman, 12 point.
· A minimum of 5 sources, at least 2 from scholarly publications or technical journals. You may find articles in books, journals from the library, on-line, or other sources.

Format: Your paper should be structured as follows:
· Title page
· Abstract (a summary of the paper, write this last)
· Intro (explain the problem and its importance, give necessary background)
· Body
  - Present and explain the various approaches/solutions
  - Compare the various approaches, possible improvements, future directions
· Conclusion (summarize your conclusions)
· References (see IEEE Citation Format document on website)

REMINDER:
· The writing in this research paper should be in your own words.
· All ideas, paraphrases of other people's words must be correctly attributed in the body of the paper, citing the references.

Criteria (see Grading Rubric on the class website)**:**
· Scope (is the topic in software engineering? too broad? too narrow? current?)
· Organization (good thesis stmt, well supported, good flow between paragraphs)
· Quality of explanations (clear, appropriate level of detail, complete)
· Critical evaluation of different approaches (number, advantages/disadvantages)
· Evidence of adequate research (good sources, citations & references managed well)
· Grammar and clarity, good words and sentences, formatting.

Topic:

- You must submit a topic proposal to the instructor for approval via email before writing your paper
- The topic proposal must include the topic and an explanation of what you want to write about.
- If it's not obvious, explain how your topic relates to software engineering.