Term Paper Assignment

Write an Analytical Research Paper

CS 3398 Spring 2014
Instructor: Jill Seaman

Due: Monday 4/21/2014, 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 investigate a problem or question in software engineering and present an organized and well-supported report on your findings. Your report must include a thesis or claim which you support in the body of the paper.

Requirements:
· 2000-2400 words (not including Title page or References), double-spaced.
· Font: Times New Roman, 12 point.
· **Three** sources from scholarly publications or technical journals. You may include other sources serving minor roles in your paper, but the bulk of your report should be based on the three primary 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, and present your main idea or claim)
· Body (include summary and analysis of your sources)
· Conclusion (summarize your conclusion)
· 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 after 2/21/14)**:**
· 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 sources (summarize/evaluate/analyze/compare them)
· Evidence of adequate research (good sources, citations & references managed well)
· Grammar and clarity, good words and sentences, formatting.

Topic:

- I have provided three papers on two topics in the Resources tool on TRACS. The two topics are:
  - ✦ Pair Programming
  - ✦ GUI Testing

- You must pick one of the following options:
  - A. write a paper on one of the topics using the 3 given papers.
  - B. write a paper on one of the topics using 2 of the 3 papers, plus a third from a peer-reviewed source that you found yourself and submitted to me for approval.
  - C. write a paper on your own topic, using 3 papers from peer-reviewed sources that you found yourself and submitted to me for approval.

- **<u>Deadline</u>** for submitting alternate papers and/or topics: **Monday, 10:00am, 3/31/2014**. Early submissions are encouraged! I will try to respond to all submissions within 3 days.