Fall 2011	**CSC 590:** Thesis Seminar	Alexander Dekhtyar

Short Presentation

Due dates: October 26, in-class

Assignment

You will prepare a short, 3-5 minute presentation about the topic of your thesis. The presentation will be delivered during the *October 26* class.

Content

What you are trying to prepare is a short, high-level description of your research topic. To help you approach this presentation from the right perspective, imagine walking from building 14 to a campus parking lot with a friend who is a Science or Engineering major (but not a CS/SE/CPE major). The friend asks you, "so, what's your thesis about?" You have 3-5 minutes to describe the problem you are trying to solve (or the area in which you are conducting your work) in the terms that

- appropriately describe your field of study and your problem;
- are accessible to your friend;
- make your work interesting and exciting.

For Students Whose Thesis Work is Under Way

Your presentation should include the discussion of a specific topic you are writing your thesis on.

For Students Whose Thesis Work has Not Started

If you do not know the exact thesis topic, provide the description of the research area you work on, and outline important open problems that appeal to you.

For Everyone

A short presentation is harder to prepare than a long one. You have limited amount of time to say what you want, it, in turn puts a limit on the number of words you will say, which puts a premium on each word, and on the manner of delivery.

You should

- All but memorize your presentation. While word-for-word memorization may not be needed or even desired, you should remember precisely what you want to say, in what order, and in which places to make appropriate inflections.
- Practice your presentation at least a few times. As opposed to a longer presentation, where ad-hoc momentary pauses to compose oneself, shift topic, or catch a breath are allowed and encouraged, for a short presentation, you must plan the exact flow of your presentation ahead of time.

Deliverables

You are allowed to prepare two PowerPoint slides to illustrate your thesis topic. One slide should contain the title of your thesis/thesis research, your name, and the name of your advisor (if you have one). The second slide can contain anything you desire.

I recommend thinking carefully before making the second slide. It should *illustrate* your talk, but you should resist the temptation to use it as a "crutch". Do not turn your presentation into a 4-min overview of what is on the slide. Rather, make your listeners connect your words to the information on the slide. (If you do not think you would benefit from the second slide, submit only the title slide).

All slides should be prepared with no background/layout, and should be submitted to the course wiki at the following URL:

https://wiki.csc.calpoly.edu/590/wiki/SalesPitch-Fall11

Good Luck!