CMSC 389G - Getting ExciTED about Computing and Technology - Winter 2015

Instructor: Evan Golub, egolubUMD@gmail.com, 1115 AVW, (301)405-0180
Meeting times: MTWRF 2:30pm-3:30pm  Prerequisites: C- or better in CMSC216 and CMSC250

Course Description
Technology and computing do not exist in a vacuum, and more and more they exist to address specific challenges or to provide tools which inspire new uses. In this course students will come to class having watched an inspirational TED or TED-like talk, having read some related literature, and being ready to discuss and expand upon the ideas presented in them. The topics covered will include ones such as crowdsourcing, technology and society, applications of algorithms, innovation, usability, and leadership.

Some Student Goals
➔ To gain a more expansive picture of how technology and computer science fits into the bigger picture of society.
➔ To have the experience of learning about new ideas and tools outside of the classroom and participate on a group discussion exploring them.
➔ To be inspired by real-world applications and see examples of how they might apply the skills learned in their other classes.
➔ To practice preparing and giving short presentations about new ideas to a peer group and leading the subsequent discussion.
➔ To experience being a contributing member of small group discussions around topics in computer science.

Overview
In this flipped-inspired course, before each class session every student will watch an inspirational TED or TED-like talk's video, and take a short pre-discussion quiz on that video. For each talk, everyone will also submit a short essay reflecting on the elements they found most interesting in the talk and/or the discussion. Two students will be assigned to each talk and will not only watch the video but will also find at least three references to background material related to the talk, give a short presentation on the talk at the start of class, and lead one of the two small-group discussions held in class. They will also write an executive summary of the talk's topic and class discussion tailored to be read by an audience of CMSC majors here at UM. At the end of the semester each student will submit a two-page essay related to what their personal overall take-aways have been (full details to be posted on class website).

Grading
Pre-discussion quizzes: 20%
Reflection essays: 25%
Class discussion participation: 25%
Lead day (lead, discussion, slides, executive summary): 20%
Semester take-aways essay: 10%
**Academic Integrity**

While this course does not have a project, the rules of academic honesty also apply to quizzes and writing assignments. All of your submitted work in this class must be your own. Please visit the webpage of the Student Honor Council (http://sch.umd.edu/) for a detailed explanation of what constitutes academic dishonesty. Note that it includes not only cheating, fabrication, and plagiarism, but also includes helping other students commit acts of academic dishonesty by allowing them to obtain copies of your work.

**Excused Absence and Academic Accommodations**

Self-documentation can be used to excuse one talk’s missed activities other than the one for which you are co-leading the day. Any student who needs to be excused for a prolonged absence (two or more talks worth of assignments and discussions) or for their presentation day must provide written documentation of the illness from the Health Center or from an outside health care provider. This documentation must verify dates of treatment and indicate the time frame that the student was unable to meet academic responsibilities. The "major grading events" for this course are the talk you are leading and the final takeaways essay.

It is also the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of any intended absences for religious observances or official University events **within the first two days of class**.

Any student eligible for and requesting reasonable academic accommodations due to a disability is requested to provide a letter of accommodation from the Office of Disability Support Services at the beginning of the semester.