CSCI 1550/2540: Probabilistic Methods in Computer Science
Final Project and Review Guidelines

Spring 2025

1 CSCI 2540 and Capstone Students:

1.1 Project report:

1. Project report is due 48 hours before the scheduled presentation.

2. Each team must submit a single `.pdf` file with the NeurIPS template written in `LaTeX`.

3. The main paper should be $6 - 8$ pages long with unlimited number of pages for appendices and references. Any content beyond the main paper is viewed at the discretion of the reviewer.

4. Any other supplementary materials (such as a code repository) should be included as a link within the submission.

5. Upload your project write-up to CSCI 1550/2540 2025 Projects. The projects are accessible to all students in the class.

1.2 In-class presentation

1. Each project is assigned a 20 minute slot (15 for presentation, 5 for questions).

2. Presentations are judged for content and clarity.

3. Reserve a slot on the sign-up sheet.

2 Peer-Review:

1. We will run a peer-review process to score your final projects. Every student will be asked to submit a review for 3 projects assigned to them. The instructor and the TAs will also be reviewers.

2. Each reviewer will give you a score out of 40 points. Please see **Section 3 (Review)** below for the specific criterion they will use to judge your work.

3. Your total score will be the weighted average of everyone's review. The weight of the TAs will be twice as much as your review. The weight of the instructor's review will be up to the discretion of the instructor himself.

3 CSCI 1550 Students:

Instructions:

1. The reviews are due on **May 1st, 11:59 PM EST**, submitted in Gradescope.

2. For each of the project you review, we ask you to write a short review (1 page).

   The review will begin with a summary describing the authors' work and contributions. Then the review will give an evaluation based on the following 10 questions:

   - How relevant is the project relevant to the probabilistic methods and/or computer science community?
   - Are the claims and method in the report correct and rigorous to your knowledge?
   - Did the authors address any limitations of their work?
   - Does the project show a deep understanding of the relevant research areas/topics?
   - Is it clear from the submissions which parts are the authors' contributions?
   - Is the paper well-written?
   - Is the presentation well-organized?
   - Does the presentation make you want to learn more about the project?

   For each of these 8 questions, we also ask you to indicate a score from 0 to 5 on your response on how effectively you think the authors met the criterion in each question.

   Finally, the review should end with a list of typos / minor errors / other comments on the submission.

3. If you have a conflict of interests with any project groups and we happened to assign you that group, please let us know in advance so that we can assign a different group to you.

4. You **may not discuss or disclose** your reviews to other students in this class until the course has ended.

5. **Mandatory attendence** and **audience engagement** for the in-class presentation are expected for all 3 days.

4 Grading For Reviewers:

1. (20%) Mandatory attendance and audience engagement to the in-class presentations.

2. (80%) The instructor and the TAs will also be reviewing your reviews. You will be evaluated on the following criteria:

   - Did the reviewer accurately describe the contributions of the authors?
   - Did the reviewer adequately address all 8 questions listed in **Section 3 (Review)**?
   - How did the reviewer provide constructive feedbacks to the submission?

5 Extra Credit:

1. **Top Projects:** If your project is among the top 3 projects reviewed, you will receive 3 bonus points (in the sense of 3 out of 100 for the class).

2. **Top Reviewers:** If your reviews are among the top 20% of the most accurate evaluations (measured using the least square differences), you will receive 3 bonus points.

3. The top projects and top reviewers will be listed on the public course website after the final grades are out. You can ask for your project and/or name to not be included.