

**EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING  
(SENG 695)  
Syllabus**

Revised April 19, 2013

**CLASS:** no formal meetings

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dale G. Dzielski, Lecturer

**TEXT:** None

**PREREQUISITE:** This course is restricted to MSSE majors. Students taking this course should be nearing the end of their MSSE coursework and should have been employed for at least two years during their coursework in a software engineering position.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Experiential Learning is intended to provide you, as a student employed in the software industry, an opportunity to gain credit equivalent to one regular course by preparing a report documenting the impact that the SENG program has had on your work.

The paper should fully explain the ways in which your work practices have been changed, for better or worse, as a result of your studies. It should be presented in a professional manner, as you would use for an actual report for a customer.

There are no hard and fast rules on length or content. However, a suggested length for the overall report would probably range between 20 and 40 pages. You are encouraged to use a reasonable number of figures and illustrations as appropriate.

By the end of the **third week of the term**, you must submit a preliminary outline for your paper. I will provide feedback as necessary to refine and finalize this outline.

By the end of the **eighth week of the term**, you must submit a first draft of your report. This draft should include several sections that are substantially complete, and provide a clear indication of any additional sections to be added. You will receive a detailed critique of this draft.

**GRADING:** Your course grade is based on your outline, first draft, and final paper. Your paper will be graded on the following scale:

PERCENTAGES		LETTER GRADES	
Outline	10%	90.0-100.0	A
First Draft	20%	80.0-89.9	B
Final Paper	70%	70.0-79.9	C
		60.0-69.9	D
		Below 60.0	F

**SUGGESTED OUTLINE:**

A suggested outline is given below. You may use a different format as long as it clearly meets the intended objectives.

**I. INTRODUCTION****II. PAST METHODOLOGIES**

This section should contain a detailed description of the methods (or lack thereof) employed in your work before participation in the program. The software processed employed during development prior to the program should be identified. An example situation should be cited and the methods used in its solution should be explored and explained. This discussion should include an in-depth explanation of the product and should include any supporting documentation or diagrams that were produced during the development of the project. The advantages and drawbacks of these methods should be examined.

**III. METHODS INCORPORATED**

This section should describe the specific methods that the practitioner has adopted that directly relate to his/her work. Clearly, for each practitioner, there are topics included in the program that are not directly related to his/her work experience. This section should include only those that have been directly incorporated into the practitioner's software processes.

**IV. REVAMPING METHODOLOGIES**

In this section, the example cited in the past methodologies section should be reworked using the new methods adopted. The new solution should be examined. A detailed description of the two solutions, including their similarities and differences, should be included. This description should document any measurable cost and quality differences between the finished products. This description should also include any supporting documentation or diagrams that were produced during the revamped development of the product.

**V. CONCLUSION**

In the final section, a discussion and critical assessment of the impact of the new methodologies should be provided.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT:**

West Virginia University is committed to social justice. I concur with that commitment and expect to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and nondiscrimination. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color or national origin. Any suggestions as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration.

If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with Disability Services (293-6700).