CS 339 – Advanced Topics Seminar – Summer 2012 – Section 002
Computer Science, Education, and History: The British Isles Connection

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: CS 339 – Advanced Topics Seminar
In-depth study of a topic taught in a seminar format. Topics will be posted in the department before registration. Open only to juniors and seniors.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course is designed to provide students with opportunities to gain an appreciation for, and understanding of, computer science history, and to experience the nature of higher education in England, Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland. Additionally, students will have opportunities to expand their world view by being immersed in the cultures of these countries. A large variety of museums and historical venues will provide insight into the history of computer science, and the role the British Isles played in this history. Many universities will be visited where course participants will have direct, in-person, interaction with students, faculty, or professionals from the area. During this interaction students are encouraged to explore similarities and differences in the nature of higher education, the work environment, and local culture. Students will experience international travel, and the culture of the visited areas.

COURSE CREDIT HOURS: 3

COURSE DATES:
Participants will depart from Muncie, Indiana on or about May 8, 2012 and return to Muncie, Indiana on or about May 27, 2012. The exact travel dates and itinerary will be determined by the participants, well in advance of the travel dates.

COURSE PREREQUISITE: none

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
By the end of this course, students will have:
- Prepared to travel and travelled internationally by gaining information through books, internet, pictures, video, discussions, etc.
- Interacted with institutions and people in the visited areas
- Participated in cultural discussions and events, where applicable

By the end of this course, students will be able to:
- Identify significant computer science events, the people involved in these events, and how they relate to the countries visited
- Compare and contrast the higher education systems of the USA and the countries visited
- Compare and contrast cultural differences between the USA and the countries visited

COURSE PROFESSOR: **Mr. David L. Largent**
Office: RB 375   E-mail: dllargent@bsu.edu   Facebook: david.largent
IM: AIM: DLLargent   Yahoo: DavidLLargent   MSN: DLLargent@Comcast.Net
Course Website: http://www.cs.bsu.edu/homepages/dllargen/CSFS-SU12
Course Facebook Page: Ball State CS goes to the British Isles

REQUIRED TEXT & MATERIALS:
- No textbook is required for this course
- Access to the Internet, a world atlas, paper and writing instruments
- While not required, a small bound journal may be useful

STUDENT EFFORT and GRADING:

You are expected to attend all required lectures, discussion groups, guided field study activities, and non-optional excursions as part of this course. All work is due within three weeks of the return date, unless otherwise indicated. Your final grade for the course will be based on the following assignments (which are described below) with the following distribution of points:

	Possible Points
Expectation Report:	40
Daily Journal:	50
Course Blog Entries:	20
Contact Report:	50
Presenter of the Day:	50
Participation:	90
Trip Report:	200
Total possible points:	500

Final course grades will be based on this grading scale:

Score Range	500 450	449 400	399 350	349 300	299 0
Letter Grade	A	B	C	D	F

If your final course score falls in a given range, you will receive the corresponding letter grade shown, or better.

Expectation Report: Prepare an 800-1200 word (approximately two single-spaced pages) Expectation Report detailing where you are going, your expectations, to what you are looking forward, etc. You should include your motivations for traveling/studying abroad, and how you expect to be different after the field study. This paper is due prior to departure on the field study.

Daily Journal: While on the field study keep a Daily Journal. Document what you did, observed, learned, enjoyed, didn't enjoy, etc. This should become an excellent resource for completing other course requirements. You will be expected to turn in your journal for the professor's review after returning from the field study. It will be returned to you after being reviewed.

Course Blog Entries: While on the field study, you will be expected to post an appropriate entry on assigned days in the course blog that will be created. All participants will make entries throughout the field study on a rotating basis. This blog will serve as a group journal recording our experiences during the field study, and will be viewable by the world.

Contact Report: Prepare an 800-1200 word (approximately two single-spaced pages) Contact Report describing specific conversations/discussions/etc. with locals or non-Americans. Try to get a view of what others think about the United States of America or Americans. This report is due after returning from the field study.

Presenter of the Day: Part of your learning experience in this field study will be to serve as a "Presenter of the Day" a few times during the field study. You will select/be assigned a few topics that you will be expected to study, prepare, and present to the field study participants during the field study. Specific details and assignments will be provided during a pre-departure field study meeting. Material for your assigned topics must be prepared and submitted to the professor prior to departure on the field study. The material you submit to the professor should be in an editable electronic form and will be provided to all field study participants.

Participation: To earn full participation credit, you must be a positive, enthusiastic traveler who took full advantage of the learning opportunities on the field study, both organized and structured, as well as independent opportunities. Points can be reduced for a variety of reasons including: excessive noise or inebriation; talking or listening to an iPod during a presentation by the professor or a tour guide; failing to follow instructions of the group leader or professor; being late; being discourteous or offensive.

Trip Report: Prepare a 2500-3500 word (approximately six single-spaced pages) Trip Report describing what you observed and learned on the field study, and how it was educational. At a minimum, include the following sections in your report:
- Significant computer science events, the people involved and how they relate to the countries visited
- Compare and contrast the higher education systems of the USA and the countries visited
- Compare and contrast the culture of the USA and the countries visited
- Specific incidents, stories, etc. that proved educational to you
- Why you feel other students should (or should not) go on a similar field study if one is offered
- What you wish you had known before you departed on the field study.

Alternatively, you may prepare a detailed PowerPoint or other multimedia presentation which provides comparable sections in lieu of up to 1500 of the required words. Gain the professor's approval of what you intend to do before doing so. This report is due after returning from the field study.

The approximate amount of time you will spend doing the variety of field study activities is shown below.

Pre-departure meetings	Pre-departure assignments	Presenter of the Day preparation	Expectation Report	Contact Report	Trip Report	Total pre- and post-travel hours
10	3	5	2	2	8	30
Group activities & meetings	Individual & small group activities	Journaling	Blogging	Total travel hours	Total pre- and post-travel hours	**Complete field study Hours**
65	45	5	5	120	30	**150**

OTHER COURSE POLICIES:
- **The best way to learn is by doing. Do your own work!** You will get better grades on the assignments by doing so. **Cheating (see the BSU Student Academic Ethics Policy for specific details) will not be tolerated.** Although discussion on any topic is encouraged, the exchange of assignments or answers by written, verbal, or electronic means is strictly prohibited! It is also considered academic dishonesty to either read or copy someone else's work or to provide a copy of your work to anyone else. Cheating will result in lowering your final grade in this course, possibly to an F. NO EXCEPTIONS! The professor is adamant that cheating in any form is a serious matter and any incident of cheating will be reported to the appropriate university administrators.
- **You are expected to read, understand, and follow the Student Participant Conduct Agreement and Statement of Responsibility document** which you signed.
- **Email sent to the professor must be sent from your BSU account;** this is the only way for the professor to verify your identity. Emails from other accounts may be ignored. Please make sure that your mailbox does not overflow, or you may miss emails from the professor.
- **Constructive comments are always welcome.** If you have an idea you feel will make this field study more worthwhile for yourself and/or others, please let the professor know.

DISABILITY NOTIFICATION:
If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with the professor, or if you need special arrangements in case a building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with the professor as soon as possible. Please bring your letter from the Disabled Student Development Office with you if appropriate.