

Information on National Science Foundation Study (for CS56 Spring 2011)

This page contains information about a National Science Foundation study of a specific technique for teaching Computer Science".

Students in the S11 and W12 offerings of CS56 are being invited to participate as subjects in this study.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to measure the effectiveness of a certain way of teaching called "Studio Based Learning (SBL)".

SBL has been used in Architecture and Art classes for many years. Recently, some instructors at the University of Hawaii, Washington State University, and Auburn University (Alabama), have applied the technique to teaching Computer Science, with some success.

Phill Conrad will be teaching CS56 twice: once in Spring 2011, and again in Winter 2012.

- In the Spring 2011 offering, the course will be taught **without** the use of studio-based learning (a "traditional offering").
- In the Winter 2012 offering, the course will be taught using SBL.

In both quarters, those students that give their "informed consent" to participate, we'll collect certain data (anonymously). The data collected will be the results of two opinion surveys (which will take, altogether, about an hour to fill out), as well as your grades on course assignments.

We'll compare how students performed, as well as their opinions about the course, and what they learned.

Informed Consent

Informed consent is a technical term that means before you consent to participate, you've been told that:

- participation is voluntary, and that you can quit at any time during the study
- what you are getting into, and how long it will last
- what the risks and benefits of participating are
- ways you could get the same benefits without participating
- information about confidentiality of records
- information about who to contact if you have questions.

The informed consent form for the study is available at these links:

- Wiki Version: S11:NSFStudy:InformedConsentForm
- PDF Version: http://www.cs.ucsb.edu/~pconrad/cs56/11S/S11_NSFStudy_InformedConsentForm.pdf

IF YOU CHOOSE TO PARTICIPATE

- Read and sign/date two copies of the informed consent form
- Keep one, and return the other to Tiffany Sabado in class today
- AFTER CLASS:
 - Go to Gauchospace, and find the item "Code for SBL Study Participation"
 - Find the "grade comment".. a code like 9kj34w
 - Visit <http://www.cpathsurvey.info> and fill out the survey, using that code
 - IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU FILL OUT THE SURVEY TODAY (THU) or TOMORROW (FRI) if possible.
 - IT SHOULD ONLY TAKE 15-20 minutes.

Thank you for reading and considering participating in this study.

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