

Information on National Science Foundation Study (for CS56 Winter 2012, Spring 2012)

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

Students in the S11, W12 and S12 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 in Spring 2011, Winter 2012 and Spring 2012

- In the S11 and S12 offerings, the course will be taught **without** the use of studio-based learning (a "traditional offering").
- In the W12 offering, the course will be taught using SBL.

In all three 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 this link:

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- http://www.cs.ucsb.edu/~pconrad/cs56/12W/W12_NSFStudy_InformedConsentForm.pdf