Things Computers Can’t Do

Freshman Seminar INT94JC, Winter 2006

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http://www.cs.ucsb.edu/~vandam/
Formalities

Latest news and additional information always found at www.cs.ucsb.edu/~vandam/teaching/W06_SEMINAR/


One unit, Pass/Fail.
To get a “Pass” you will have to participate actively in the seminar.
Seminar Newsgroup

There is a Google group where everybody can read and post messages about the seminar:
http://groups.google.com/group/thingscomputerscantdo/

If you do not sign your emails, I will probably not reply.
If you email me a general question, I probably will cc my reply to the discussion group.
sem·i·nar (sēm'ə-när')

*n.*

– A small group of advanced students in a college or graduate school engaged in original research or intensive study under the guidance of a professor who meets regularly with them to discuss their reports and findings.

– A course of study so pursued.

– A scheduled meeting of such a group.

A meeting for an exchange of ideas; a conference.

[German, from Latin sēminārium, seed plot. See seminary.]
Introduction...
How it Works

You have to attend the seminars and participate to get a “Pass” grade.

As preparation for the seminar you will be asked to read a chapter from “Computers Ltd.” beforehand.

To show that you indeed read the text and to get food for our discussion you will have to email me no later than Monday “something inspired” about the material.
Huh?

Possibilities:
• A provocative thought
• A follow up question
• A haiku
• A cartoon

Criteria:
• It should show that you read the material and that you seriously tried to understand it.
• It should be interesting, no dull summaries please. I want to use them in my slides.
• They do not have to be long or complicated.

"Something inspired?"
Tentative Schedule

Here, in Phelps 1401, from 3:30 to 5:30pm (max.)

Wednesday Feb 8: today
Wednesday Feb 15: What’s it all about?
Wednesday Feb 22: Sometimes we can’t do it
Wednesday Mar 1: Sometimes we can’t afford to do it.
Wednesday Mar 8: …
Wednesday Mar 15: …

“Prediction is very difficult, especially if it’s about the future.”

Niels Bohr
Staying Up-To-Date

Frequently check the web site of the course at:
www.cs.ucsb.edu/~vandam/teaching/W06_SEMINAR/

In case of exceptional situations:
email me as soon as possible.

Give me a working email address…