CSC 493 Senior Projects
Post-production memo

Purpose of this Post-Production Memo:

What is the point of this post-production memo? I have three objectives in mind:
- that you reflect on your own work—realize how much you have accomplished and how much you have learned.
- that you reflect on the course structure so your experience can help me to make improvements to future offerings of the course.
- that you offer advice to future students so your experience can help them make the course be a good experience.

In the business world, self-evaluation is expected. When an employee is first offered a job, he or she enters into a contract and salary negation with the prospective employer. If the prospective employee undersells himself or herself, he or she ends up with a lower salary than his or her real worth. If the prospective employee oversells himself or herself, he or she will lose credibility and may well also end up with a lower salary than his or her real worth because his or her proposed salary will be rejected. The same is true during raise negotiations. And, these issues are not relegated to low-tier employees. Across the nation, we are witnessing a backlash against CEO bonuses and high salaries, so CEOs are attempting to justify their value. Exactly a year ago, at the Berea College Financial Forum (December 7, 2009 Baird Lounge, 4:00-5:00 pm), the salaries for the Berea College President and Vice-Presidents were called into question, and President Shinn was forced to justify his own salary.

The most successful firms invite employee feedback into improving the company processes, and I believe your input and insights will be extremely valuable in helping to make adjustments to future offerings of this course.

It is for these reasons, you are being asked to offer feedback on the course and to evaluate your performance in the course.

At the top of the memo include:
- Your project title
- Your project logo
- Your name
- The date of the memo

In the body of your memo, please address the following questions:

1. By allowing students to choose his or her project in the course, the hope was that students would choose a project of real interest to him or her and would lead to better final projects. What are your thoughts of the positives and negatives of allowing this much design freedom?

2. As you know, this course is designed to create one large software project, final report, video demo, and poster presentation. Flexibility was built into the course by allowing continual revision and upgrade of the report, which seems desirable. However, this has had the consequence of having most everything

gradable due at the very end of the course. Discuss whether or not you see this as reasonable and offer any constructive suggestions for changes in possible future offerings of this course.

3. As you know, completing a large project can be challenging to fit into the time constraints of a product launch or a semester. Discuss the positives and the negatives of the time constraints which were imposed weekly, and offer any constructive suggestions you have for mitigate the negative effects of the time constrains for the semester.

4. Please detail any additional suggestions you have for the Project Director for future offerings of this course.

5. What constructive advice do you have for future students who will take this course? I would like to be able to pass these comments along to future students exactly as you write them.

6. Using the stated grading structure for this course what overall course grade do you think you deserve? (Try to fairly evaluate yourself here—as explained above overselling or underselling yourself is typically unproductive. Like in the poster session, I recommend you frame your learning and your accomplishments.) Carefully detail how you arrived at your conclusion. Note that this is not at all a cop-out on my part—I may well disagree with your self-evaluation, but I want to offer you the opportunity to make your case just as you may have to in a business setting such as a salary negotiation.   Feel free to use as much space as needed for this answer.

> The Grading Scale section of the current Berea College Catalog and Student Handbook:
> A Excellent work
> B Good work
> C Competent work
> D Poor work; worthy of credit.
> F Failing work; unworthy of credit
> http://www.berea.edu/cataloghandbook/academics/aps/grades/gradingscale.asp

7. I value your feedback here as well as in the IEQs. Doing the IEQs is important because high response rates demonstrate to the institution that students care enough to respond. Please do the anonymous online IEQ evaluation for this course. Then report here that you have in fact completed it.

Memo Format and Submission:

This memo is NOT to be included in your Final Report because it is a post-production memo. Remembering that this course has a business model, so please be sure to format, spell-check, and correct grammatical errors before submitting.

Convert the file to a pdf, name the file *yourusername*RPPM.pdf, and upload into Moodle along with the completed final software demo evaluations which are to be completed on all of the projects using faculty.berea.edu/pearcej/csc493/CSC493-demoeval.doc.

P.P.S. Thanks so much for all your hard work in this course—I hope you have had a good experience, learned a lot, and feel really proud of your final software product.