<u>Community Service Learning Option</u>

Students may opt to do a Community Service Learning Project instead of a traditional final exam. Service learning project proposals should involve teaching computer science at a local school to individuals that currently are underrepresented in the field of computer science or performing a computer related service. The project should be at least one hour in length and **may be done individually or in groups** (no more than 5 persons per group without approval from professor).

The community service may be based on material learned in class or may be related to other student knowledge, experiences, and interests. Most schools in the area have relatively little computer science instruction due to limited funding. By engaging in a **service learning** experience via a school presentation or community service, you will reinforce the material learned in class and serve your local community by making a difference.

The student(s) must provide a formal **Lesson Plan or Project Proposal** to the professor at least <u>two weeks</u> in advance of the tentative presentation or service date. In your lesson plan please focus less on content and more on fun activities to bring the computer science alive and get the kids actively participating in the learning process and excited about learning computer science. Plan on showing through hands-on activities, pictures, posters, videos and Powerpoint rather than telling. Plan on meeting with the professor when you are 100% ready to do the community service to get final approval. Upon approval of these forms professor will give student(s) a personalized **Service Learning Grade Sheet** which will be taken to the school and completed by the on-site teacher/administrator at the time of the presentation/service. Evaluation will be based on interaction with class, mastery of material, and teaching effectiveness (worth 85% of total grade) or effectiveness and value of the service provided. The service learning activity will be coordinated directly between students and community partners. Professor may provide a list of community partners by request as well. Please dress appropriately during your service learning activity.

The completed **Service Learning Grade Sheet along with a Reflection Paper** (worth 15% of the grade) on the school presentation will be due within a week of completing the service. In the Reflection Paper each individual group member will describe his/her experience, self-assess his/her effectiveness in teaching the material or providing the service, and indicate what he/she learned from the experience and how the experience has changed him/her. **All service learning activities and reflection papers are due by last class before finals week- no exceptions!**

Ric Alviso, Ph.D. April 2016