Course Syllabus EECS 4980 – Open-Source Software Development

**Credits & Contact Hours** 3 credit hrs & three 50-minute lecture contact hrs per week

**Coordinator** Dr. Larry Thomas

Textbook None

Supplemental materials: Students will read approximately 30 instructor-selected scholarly papers and relevant journal articles on topics in F/OSS (Free and Open-Source Software) development

**Course Information** 

Exploration of aspects of open-source software development. This course will be conducted in a seminar-style format. Students will take turns presenting papers to the class. Students will write critiques of each paper, and the instructor will lead discussion of the topics, strong, and weak points of each paper.

Prerequisite: EECS 3550

Elective course

Specific Goals-Student Learning Objectives Upon completion of this course, students will be able to

- 1. Explore the mechanisms by which open-source software development projects operate, from inception through maintenance.
- Explore the group dynamics, motivations for participation, software development methodologies, and activities typically inherent in an Open-Source project

**Topics** 

- Fundamental driving factors that created the Free and Open Source Software (F/OSS) movement
- 2. Motivations for Open-Source Software Developers' participation
- 3. Team dynamics in F/OSS projects
- 4. Typical characteristics of F/OSS projects
- 5. Analysis of case studies of F/OSS projects
- 6. Maintenance issues in F/OSS projects
- 7. Licensing schemes applicable to F/OSS projects
- 8. Integration of F/OSS components with Commercial components.