Presenting 101

Dr. Justin F. Brunelle
jbrunelle@cs.odu.edu
http://www.cs.odu.edu/~jbrunelle/cs518
Why?

- Communication is a universal skill
- Coding along has a ceiling
- Researchers must present their work
- If you can't tell anyone about your work, why should they care?
How?

• Tell 'em what you're gunna tell 'em
• Tell 'em
• Tell 'em what you told 'em
The preparation...

• Have a defined message
  – I had a neat approach to using Ajax in my chat tool

• Know your audience
  – These are my peers
  – Master's-level computer scientists

• Understand:
  – Material
  – Talk roadmap
  – Implications of your work
The Structure...

- **Introduction**
  - Stories help! Captures attention.
  - Problem statements here, preferably with examples

- **Approach**
  - How did you go about solving the thing?

- **Results**
  - Figures, diagrams, stats, etc.

- **Analysis, conclusions, next steps**
The Questions...

- No questions == no one cares
- Be prepared to answer questions
- It's acceptable to not know, but explain why!
- Questions aren't traps
  - Flattering – I liked your talk so much that I thought about it and decided to continue this conversation
Extracurriculars

• Be fun, engaging, etc.
• Use slide numbers
• Use common punctuation
• Reading slides == terrible presentation
• Minimize text
• Slides are presentation *tools* to aid the presenter's *soundtrack*