

Introduction

CPS 300: Introduction to Graduate Study

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<http://www.phdcomms.com>

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Course format

- Website: <http://www.cs.duke.edu/courses/fall10/cps300/>
- Class meetings: Wednesdays 4:25-5:40 pm, North 311
- C/NC grading: class participation + completion of (ungraded) assignments
 - No exams
- Talks in the department: check event calendar (<http://www.cs.duke.edu/events/>)
 - Local TCSDLS: “must” attend
 - Telecast TCSDLS and dept. colloquia: “should” attend
- Watch for email announcements to cps300 alias

Goal & content

- To help you get started (especially on research)
 - Faculty are here to inform and advise
 - But you must learn by doing!
 - Advice on graduate life and research
 - Navigating through requirements
 - Finding/keeping advisors
 - Reading/reviewing/writing papers, giving talks
 - Attending conferences
 - Weathering highs and lows of grad student life
 - I am open to your suggestions on what to cover
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- A small inset photograph in the top right corner shows a person wearing a white lab coat and a dark apron, stirring a large pot on a stove with a wooden spoon. The background is a kitchen setting with wooden cabinets.



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<http://familyplayandlearn.com/DSCF1927.jpg>

Team building & discussion (20 min.)

- Get to know your team
- Why did you choose to do a PhD/MS in CS?
 - List the top 5 reasons
 - Are there right/wrong reasons?
- Come up with a good name for your team!
- Elect a member to summarize your team's discussion (3 minutes)



<http://www.cartoonstock.com/newscartoons/cartoonists/tcr/lowres/tcrn12ol.jpg>

Team assignment

- Team **Young Scientists**
 - Yunjia, Wuzhou, Marisabel, Xuan, Zihang
- Team **Couch Potatoes**
 - Fan, Jannie, Janardhan, Yu, Rohit
- Team **Good Looking**
 - Bing, Alan, Yezhou, Muzhi, Botong
- Team **Amazing Five**
 - Ke, Prateek, Muhammad, Tianqi, Xiao
- Team **Enigma**
 - Bala, Fei, Yasunori, Xiaoming, Dina
- Team **Rowxs**
 - Alex, You, Salman, Xixi, Rozemary

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A few points to keep in mind

- Research, **research**, **research**!
 - You already know how to excel in courses anyway
 - Try to go out of your comfort zone!
 - Courses are just a means to an end
 - Dive in early
 - Seek out faculty and senior students
 - Attend research group meetings
 - Plan your first courses based on research instead of requirements
 - Talk to your mentor(s)
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- A photograph of a blue bird, possibly a Blue Jay, in flight against a clear blue sky. The bird is shown from the side, with its wings spread, flying towards the right. The feathers are a vibrant blue, and the bird's beak is pointed downwards.



http://www.allaboutbirds.org/NetCommunity/bbimages/aab/images/takephotos/full/diving_pelican.jpg

Jeopardy! in two weeks (Sep. 15)



Six categories

- PhD RIP: Team **Couch Potatoes**
- PhD Prelim/dissertation: Team **Good Looking**
- PhD Quals: Team **Rawxs**
- PhD Course/Teaching: Team **Young Scientists**
- MS Requirements: Team **Amazing Five**
- General Requirements (incl. Annual Review): Team **Enigma**

Ultimate reference for CS requirements:

- http://www.cs.duke.edu/education/assets_documents/grad-req.pdf
- Under <http://www.cs.duke.edu/education/graduate/requirements>

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<http://appraisalnewsonline.typepad.com/photos/uncategorized/2008/01/14/test.jpg>

Homework (due by next class)

- If you don't have a faculty mentor or advisor yet, email me responses to the 2 questions below:
 - Which research area(s) are you interested in?
 - If you have a preference, whom would you like to be your faculty mentor?
 - If you list any name at all, please list at least two
- Record a .WAV file of you speaking your name (the way you want others to pronounce it) and email it to me
- Read *On Being a Scientist*
(http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12192)
- **Teamwork**: study the CS requirements doc, and come up with 5 Jeopardy! questions for your assigned category

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