

Introduction

CPS 300: Introduction to Graduate Study
Jun Yang

SOURCE: CHAMBLIS @ THE STANFORD DAILY
http://www.phdcomics.com/comics/archive/phd0209.gif

Course format

- Website: <http://www.cs.duke.edu/courses/fall11/cps300/>
- Class meetings: Wednesdays 4:25-5:40 pm, LSRC 344
- 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 advice
 - 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

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

Team building & discussion (20 min.)

- Get to know your team
- Why did you choose to go to CS grad school?
 - 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 (3-5 minutes)

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Team assignment

- Team **JARS**
 - Jie, Sandeep, Alex, Ralf
- Team **Tachikoma**
 - Songchun, Puneet, Kyle
- Team **Bob**
 - Cassi, Ruofan, Razvan
- Team **Jymasher** (“Jy” is silent)
 - JJ, Yuqian, Mahanth

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)

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

Jeopardy! in two weeks (Sep. 21)



- PhD RIP: **Bob**
- PhD prelim: **Jymasher**
- PhD dissertation: **Jymasher**
- PhD quals: **JARS**
- PhD course/teaching requirements: **JARS**
- MS requirements: **Tachikoma**
- General requirements: **Tachikoma**
 - Including annual review
- Grad school and university rules: **Bob**

References:

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

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

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Homework (due by next class)

- Record a .WAV 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 requirements, and come up with 10 Jeopardy! questions (5 for each of your assigned categories)

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