Introduction

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CPS 399.28: Research Seminar & Project in Databases
Jan. 15, 2008

Course info
- Time: Tuesdays 10:05am-11:20am
- Place: North Bldg. 306
- Instructor (or rather, facilitator): Jun Yang
  - Office hours: right after lectures, or by appointment
- Web page:
  [http://www.cs.duke.edu/courses/spring08/cps399.28/](http://www.cs.duke.edu/courses/spring08/cps399.28/)
  - Tentative schedule
  - Reading assignments
  - Presentation slides

Course format
- Seminar + project
  - No lectures, no homework, no exams
- Seminar component
  - Each class meeting covers ~2 research papers
  - Papers posted on web at least one week in advance
  - Reviews due the midnight before the lecture
  - We take turns presenting (and leading the discussion)
    - Each of you are expected to present 2-3 times
    - A presenter for a paper need not submit review for that paper
- Project component
  - Individual projects are okay, though teamwork is preferred
  - Two class meetings are reserved for proposal presentation and progress report—everybody presents
  - Mini-conference in place of final exam

Goal
- Ready yourself for doing research in databases (or a related field)
- Practice
  - How to present ideas and results
  - How to critique others’ (and your own) work
- Learn
  - Recent developments in selected areas of database (or related) research
- Enjoy
  - Picking research problems
  - Working on a research project
  - Brainstorming, discussions, and debates with your colleagues

Grading
- Reviews 20%
- Presentation/discussion 20%
- Attendance 10%
- Project proposal presentation 10%
- Project progress report 10%
- Final project presentation 30%

Scale
- [90%, 100%] A
- [80%, 90%) B
- [70%, 80%) C
- [60%, 70%) D
- [0%, 60%) F

Roadmap
- This week
  - Introduction: get to know each other’s interests better
  - I’ll then come up with a tentative reading list
  - You’ll sign up for presentation slots
- Next week
  - I’ll present the first two papers: Google’s MapReduce and Bigtable (reviews due by Monday)
  - Reading list/presentation slots will be finalized
- Feb. 26: project proposal presentation
- Apr. 8: project progress reports
- May 1: mini-conference of final project presentations