Introduction

CPS 300: Introduction to Graduate Study
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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 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

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)

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 Rawxs
- Alex, You, Salman, Xixi, Rozemary

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)
**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:
- [Under http://www.cs.duke.edu/education/graduate/requirements](http://www.cs.duke.edu/education/graduate/requirements)

**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
- Teamwork: study the CS requirements doc, and come up with 5 Jeopardy! questions for your assigned category