CS398T: Supervised Teaching in Computer Science

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Today’s Agenda

• Introductions
• Course Overview
  – What is 398T?
  – How to succeed
  – Tentative Schedule
• Expectations
• Getting to Know Each Other
What is 398T?

• A course where you will learn about:
  – Research opportunities
  – Teaching

• Part A: Research professors presenting about their research
  – Helps you know the possibilities as you begin exploring research areas and choosing advisors
  – Led by William Cook

• Part B: Learning how to be a good teaching assistant and assistant instructor
  – Led by Alison Norman
What is 398T?

Research Professor Presentations

– Helps you know the department as you explore research areas and choosing an advisor
– Not all professors will give talks
– Many students switch advisors
  • (more than you think)
– You will identify a research advisor to work with for next semester (and maybe for your whole PhD!)
  • You will need to identify this person and have her/him agree to work with you and sign a form
What is 398T?

How to Teach

– Helps you be a good TA and then a great teacher
– Topics:
  • How to Be a Good TA
  • Preparation, Assessment, and Human Messiness,
  • Teaching a Course
  • Experienced TA/AI Panel
  • Being Professional
  • Micro-teaching Presentations
    – You will teach for 7 minutes!
Course Information

• Credit/No Credit Class
  – All you need is to earn credit, and you are finished!

• To earn credit for this course:
  – Attend class
    • Sign in on the Sign-In Sheet
    • Do NOT sign in for anyone else
    • Absences may be excused for conference travel, etc. You must obtain permission before missing class.
  – Participate in class
    • Pay attention
    • Ask questions and/or contribute to the discussion
    • Electronic devices are *not* allowed. They need to be put away and on silent.
  – Complete assignments by the deadline
    • Must show good effort
  – Meet with various faculty to identify a research advisor for next semester
  – Get a signature from one faculty member for a CS395 research course for next semester (due 12/6)
Course Tools

• Piazza
  – Main place for communication, including information about course schedule, forms, and assignments
  – Should have received an invitation

• Website
  – Include contact information for course staff, course schedule, and assignment information

• Canvas
  – Automatic registration

• Email
Communication

• Course communication will take place through:
  – Piazza announcements
  – CS email (login@cs.utexas.edu)
  – email officially registered with the university
  – Canvas announcements

• Both Piazza and Canvas announcements will by default go to the email address registered with the university
Schedule (So Far)

• Next week:
  – Course Development
  – Faculty Talks
  – Out-of-class TA training:
    • How to Be a Good TA: Wednesday, 9/4, 7p-9p in GDC 1.304
    – And you observe a lecture

• Week after:
  – Lecture observation discussion
  – Career Development Presentation
  – Faculty Talks
  – And you observe a discussion section

• Rest of September and most of October:
  – Research talks during in-class meetings
  – One more out-of-class TA training
    • Preparation, Assessment, and Human Messiness: Wednesday, 9/18, 7p-9p in GDC 1.304

• Rest of October and first weeks of November
  – Experienced TA/AI Panel
  – Micro-teaching Presentations
Class Participation

• In research, it is important to ask questions and participate in the discussion.
• In learning, engaging with the material while it is being taught (that is, asking and answering questions in class) is important.
• So... in this class, we will emphasize class participation.
Yet more uncomfortableness...

Let’s play Blackout Bingo!

How familiar are you with Bingo?
Make a Name Tent

• Display your preferred name
• Put your last name in smaller font below

Example:

[Alison Norman
she/her/hers]
Announcements

Next week:
- On Tuesday, hopefully a talk on Communication through Writing led by William Cook
- A Wednesday evening training on How to Be a Good TA
- Research talks begin on Thursday