CSCI 6000: Intro to the Computer Science PhD Program[1]
Fall 2024

Instructor
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Short Description
The purpose of the course is to provide new Computer Science PhD students with the knowledge, skills, and mindset needed for success in the PhD program and beyond. Accordingly, we will cover topics pertaining to

- **research fundamentals**
  What is research?
  What is Computer Science research?
  What are the ethics of research?
  What is a research community?
  How does research funding work?
- **research skills**
  How do I find a relevant research paper?
  How do I read a research paper?
  How do I write a research paper?
  How do I present my research results?
  How do I critique a research paper?
- **inter-personal skills**
  How do I effectively collaborate with others?
  How I manage conflict?
  How do I find and connect with my research community?
- **intra-personal skills**
  How do I manage my time?
  How do I manage stress?
  How do I balance research, TA, and classes?
- **research success**
  What is research success?
  What is research excellence?
  What is research elegance?
  How can I tell if I'm succeeding in the PhD?

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[1] Subject to change at instructor's discretion. The most updated copy available on Canvas.

Prerequisite
None

Intended Outcome
Upon successful completion of this course, you will:
- Understand what it takes to succeed in the PhD program.
- Understand the research enterprise and how to navigate it
- Develop basic research skills and techniques
- Enhance your inter-personal and intra-personal skills
- Be inspired to become a productive member of the research community

Reading Material
Selected articles and other materials from the Internet.

Instruction Mode
This class will be taught in person with all students required to attend each class.

Course Format
This is a research-focused, highly discursive, and interactive course. As such, you are expected to attend class regularly, do the required readings/critiques, and actively participate in the small- group and whole-class discussions. Synchronous, in-person participation is required.

Learning Management System
We will use Canvas in this course (https://canvas.colorado.edu/). This is where I will post readings, class notes, assignments, the syllabus, and so on. Please be sure to check the web page on a regular basis.

Getting Help via Piazza
I want the course to be rewarding and instructional, not frustrating and demoralizing. But, I don't know when or how to help unless you ask. If you find yourself stuck on something or have a question, please post it to Piazza (https://piazza.com/colorado/fall2024/csci6000). The system is highly catered to getting you help efficiently from classmates and me. Rather than emailing me questions, I request that you to post your questions on Piazza. If your question is of a private nature, Piazza allows you to send private messages. I prefer this form of communication rather than email since you will get a quick reply and I will have a record of the post. Of course, please feel free to email me if you have a sensitive topic to discuss or something to share. I love hearing from my students.

Grades

Grades will be based on the level of engagement with the activities outlined above. Your grade will be based on the proportion of activities completed with adequate quality. You can miss 10% of the activities for any reason without any penalty. As a concrete example, let's say there are 10 activities. You can miss 10% of these with no penalty, so 1 activity. Now if you complete 8 activities with adequate quality, your score will be: $(8+1)/10 = 9/10 = 90\% = $ A-. Alternatively, if you complete 6 activities, your score will be: $(6+1)/10 = 7/10 = 70\% = $ B-.

Individual scores will be computed using two decimal precision and final scores will be rounded (e.g., 93.50 = 94 but 93.49 = 93). Curving of grades is not anticipated.

A (94-100)	A- (90-93)		
B+ (87-89)	B (84-86)	B- (80-83)	
C+ (77-79)	C (74-76)	C- (70-73)	
D+ (67-69)	D (64-66)	D- (60-63)	F (0-59)

Late Submissions

Submissions designated late will not be reviewed/scored. If your submission is late due to an extraneous circumstance (an illness/accident), you can enter a justification into the designated field on the submission page and I will review it to decide whether to accept/score your submission. This is the preferred method of communicating your reason for a late submission since all the details are in one place rather than email.

Workload

You will be required to spend a reasonable [but not excessive] amount of time on out-of-class work including pre-class reading, writing, and reflection.

Attendance

You are expected to attend all the scheduled classes in person since this is a discussion-based course.

Policies (See https://colorado.edu/academicaffairs/policies-customs-guidelines/required-syllabus-statements)

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote, or online. Failure to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, marital status, political affiliation, or political philosophy.

For more information, see the classroom behavior policy, the Student Code of Conduct, and the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance.

Accommodation for Disabilities, Temporary Medical Conditions, and Medical Isolation

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the Disability Services website. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition, see Temporary Medical Conditions on the Disability Services website.

If you have a temporary illness, injury or required medical isolation for which you require adjustment, please inform me as soon as you can. You do not need to state the nature of your illness when alerting me and do not need to provide "doctor's notes" for classes missed due to illness. Please note that campus health services no longer provide "doctor's notes" or appointment verifications.

Preferred Student Names and Pronouns

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

Honor Code

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code may include but are not limited to: plagiarism (including use of paper writing services or technology [such as essay bots]), cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. Understanding the course's syllabus is a vital part in adhering to the Honor Code.

All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution: StudentConduct@colorado.edu. Students found responsible for violating the Honor Code will be assigned resolution outcomes from the Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution as well as be subject to academic sanctions from the faculty member. Visit Honor Code for more information on the academic integrity policy.

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

CU Boulder is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. University policy prohibits protected-class discrimination and harassment, sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking, and related retaliation by or against members of our community on- and off-campus. The Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) addresses these concerns, and individuals who have been subjected to misconduct can contact OIEC at 303-492-2127 or email cureport@colorado.edu. Information about university policies, reporting options, and support resources including confidential services can be found on the OIEC website.

Please know that faculty and graduate instructors must inform OIEC when they are made aware of incidents related to these policies regardless of when or where something occurred. This is to ensure that individuals impacted receive outreach from OIEC about resolution options and support resources. To learn more about reporting and support for a variety of concerns, visit the Don't Ignore It page.

Religious Accommodations

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, please notify the instructional faculty of any anticipated conflicts due to religious obligations as early in the semester as possible (at least two weeks before) so that there is adequate time to make alternate arrangements.

See the campus policy regarding religious observances for full details.

Mental Health and Wellness

The University of Colorado Boulder is committed to the well-being of all students. If you are struggling with personal stressors, mental health or substance use concerns that are impacting academic or daily life, please contact Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) located in C4C or call (303) 492-2277, 24/7.

Free and unlimited telehealth is also available through Academic Live Care. The Academic Live Care site also provides information about additional wellness services on campus that are available to students.