

General Information

General description

CS200 is the undergraduate colloquium in computer science. The seminar consists of weekly presentations from the research faculty and graduate students in the department, as well as a few outside speakers from the local Silicon Valley industry. In addition to learning about some of the exciting projects going on here, you also get insight into the people that are making it happen: why they do what they do, how they got to where they are, what advice might they offer to you, and so on.

The first goal of the seminar is to provide you with an overview of ongoing research efforts in several key areas of computer science. There is also, however, a second goal. One of the most important reasons to be at Stanford is the extraordinary quality of the faculty and of the research that goes on here. Unfortunately, many students do not take sufficient advantage of these resources. This seminar gives you the opportunity to make initial contacts with members of the Stanford faculty. These contacts will not only enrich your undergraduate experience but are also of considerable importance in applying for jobs or graduate school.

I see CS200 as valuable for sophomores who are trying to find an advisor, as well as juniors and seniors who are thinking about getting involved in research, or anyone who would like to know more about what our faculty are up to around here.

Class meetings

CS200 meets every Thursday afternoon from 3:15-4:45 in room Gates B08. The seminar will meet every week during the quarter, except for dead week. The speaker schedule is kept on our course web site at <http://cse.stanford.edu/class/cs200/>.

Coordinator

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Office hours: M 2:30-4pm Th 1:30-3pm

Requirements

Grading is on an S/NC basis only. There are two requirements for getting credit in CS200. The first of these is regular attendance and participation in discussions. In order to receive credit, you may miss at most one meeting during the quarter.

The second requirement is intended to make your participation in the seminar a bit more active than passive. Each class session will be divided into two 40-minute periods, with a 5-minute break in between, and we have two speakers each week, one for the first half, another for the second. For each speaker, one student (or a pair of students) will take responsibility for writing up a short summary of the talk and posting it to our course web site. Not only will this encourage you to participate and understand their talk, your write-up will be useful to others who miss hearing this speaker. If we end up with more students enrolled than the number of presentations, I will provide an alternative method for fulfilling this requirement.