

Csc 80020 – Computer Science Research at CUNY  
Computer Science PhD Program  
Graduate Center, CUNY  
Fall 2017

1. Goal:

This course aims at helping the PhD candidates to prepare their second exam. This course is designed to provide a flexible structure and meeting time so that the students are given more time and opportunities to focus on their own research area and identify their thesis topics as early as possible.

2. Timeline:

- First Lecture (8/29):  
Class kick off!
- From 9/5 to 11/21:  
Meet with instructor individually or as a small group every week. For each week, report the number of papers reviewed, provide a brief report on the contents of the research works reviewed, and send in 1-2 paragraphs summary for each piece of surveyed work.
- Lectures on 11/28 and 12/5:  
Two presentation sessions. Each student will put up a talk that summarizes their surveyed works through the semester. The talk is supposed to be a short version of their real second exam presentation.

3. Evaluation:

- Number of papers reviewed:  
Each student is required to survey 35-40 papers, articles or book chapters in their research field throughout the semester. It's recommended that a student should survey at least 3 papers (or book chapters) per week. For each research work surveyed, the student should write a 1-2 paragraph summary which includes the motivation, major contribution, and pros & cons of the work in brief narratives. The students are encouraged to put in their own thoughts when reviewing other people's work, and even better, to suggest improving ideas. This will help the students to make fundamental progress towards accomplishing their second exam.
- Presentation  
Each student is required to put up a 20-minutes presentation as a summary for the research works that he/she has surveyed throughout the semester. The format of the presentation should be similar to the oral exam of the second exam.
- Written delivery:  
A summary of all the research works that were surveyed is due by the end of the semester. This summary should be in the same format of the written component for the second exam. The best turnout for this written delivery is to get the written part of the second exam ready.