

Instructor

Isuru Godage, Ph.D.

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Office hours: Mo 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM, We 2:00 – 3:30 PM,
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Colloquium Time and Venue

Fr 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM in Room 708 CDM Bldg

Course Web Page

This syllabus and other links to submit the weekly reflection reports are available on D2L. Please check the D2L course page regularly. Also, check <https://colloquium.cdm.depaul.edu/> for research talk and author information.

Course Description

The research colloquium consists of weekly talks by a variety of speakers including faculty, students, and guests from the academic and business communities. The lectures feature creative and scholarly works that encompass the disciplines and areas of interest of the College of Computing and Digital Media. Student evaluation is based on the reflections on each of the presentations. CSC-500 students are required to submit two extended reflections, out of the total number of reflections.

Course Objectives

In this course, students will:

- learn creative and scholarly research
- hone their critical thinking to write effective reflection reports
- improve scholarly writing skills for effective communication
- formulate inquisitive questions to comprehend research concepts better
- apply current knowledge to understand and acquire new knowledge
- engage in the thought process of identifying and solving challenging research problems

Prerequisites

- **CSC-395:** (CSC-321 or CSC-355 or CSC-376) and (WRD-204)
- **CSC-500:** None

Course Format

Students will attend/follow a weekly research talk and prepare a reflection based on each of the presentations. Research talks are recorded and available for offline viewing vis D2L.

Required Textbook

None.

Grading

The course grade is apportioned as follows:

- Weekly reflections 90%
- Participation 10%

Reflections: 90% of your final grade will be based on your reflections on each of the presentations during the quarter. You should upload your reflections on D2L in .pdf format under the submissions tab. Each reflection is due within a week of the corresponding presentation (by 11:30 PM the following Thursday). Information about the reflections is given at the end of this section. Each reflection carries equal weight toward the final grade.

Participation in each of the research talk is highly recommended. Note that participation is not attendance. Your participation is gauged by your interactions in the class which includes attentiveness, posing questions to the speaker. Students who miss a presentation are responsible for viewing the recording of the presentation and completing and submitting the reflection.

The grading rubric for normalized marks:

| | | | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C+ |
| 95-100 | 91-94 | 88-90 | 85-87 | 81-84 | 77-80 |
| C | C- | D+ | D | F | I |
| 73-76 | 69-72 | 65-68 | 61-64 | 0-60 | * |

***Incomplete:** An incomplete grade is given only for an exceptional reason such as a death in the family, a severe illness, etc. Any such reason must be documented. Any incomplete request must be made at least two weeks before the final and approved by the Dean of CDM. Any consequences resulting from a poor grade for the course will not be considered as valid reasons for such a request.

To do well in this course

You should attend/participate in the research talks and obtain a good understanding of the motivation, approach, and applications of the research topic presented.

Policies

Deadlines for adds, drops, and withdraws

See the deadlines in <https://www.depaul.edu/university-catalog/academic-handbooks/undergraduate/university-information/Pages/academic-calendar.aspx>

Online Course Evaluations

Evaluations are a way for students to provide valuable feedback regarding their instructor and the course. Detailed feedback will enable the instructor to continuously tailor teaching methods and course content to meet the learning goals of the course and the academic needs of the students. They are a requirement of the course and are critical to continue to provide students with the highest quality of teaching. The evaluations are anonymous; the instructor and administration do not track who entered what responses. A program is used to check if the student completed the evaluations, but the evaluation is separate from the student's identity. Since 100% participation is our goal, students are sent periodic reminders over three weeks. Students do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation. Students complete the evaluation online in [CampusConnect](#).

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy; the following is an excerpt from the policy. More information is available at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>. If you have any questions be sure to consult with me.

Academic Policies

All students are required to manage their class schedules each term in accordance with the deadlines for enrolling and withdrawing as indicated in the University Academic Calendar. Information on enrollment, withdrawal, grading, and incompletes can be found at <http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/PoliciesandProcedures.aspx>

Students with Disabilities

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me in private as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), to discuss their specific needs, and make sure that you have contacted the [Center for Students with Disabilities \(CSD\)](#). All discussions will remain confidential.

Reflections

Reflections are to be one full page (single-spaced) that discuss what you saw and heard from the talk. Reflections are graded on how well they identify the research components, evaluate the talk, and connect to your own experience. Reflections must clearly reflect that you watched/heard something specific from the talk. All reflections should be written using an informative and mostly formal tone. The assumption is that each speaker is addressing a smart and well-read audience, but one which may not know specific details or have the relevant background knowledge about some of the talks. In other words, it is expected that you may not have experience with some of the more technical details of a talk. However,

it is expected that you will be able to extract some useful knowledge from each talk. Each reflection should consist of three labeled sections as follows:

Summary. Briefly identify the speaker(s) and the overall topic of the talk. Briefly identify the research question(s) and outcomes/conclusions. Summarize important ideas that were presented. This section should also include what, for you, were the "takeaways" or primary contributions of the talk.

Evaluation. Evaluate what you saw using concepts and ideas you have learned in other courses you have taken or in other research-related experience. What did you learn from the talk (and papers)? What wasn't clear to you?

Connections. Draw connections between what you learned from the talk (and papers) and your personal research interests and work. In what ways might your work benefit from the research presented? Many of the talks you will hear will not be in your area of research or primary interest. However, you should always be able to find something relevant and useful to your work! For example, you can discuss whether the methods they used to explore the research questions could apply to something in your area.

Extended Reflections (for CSC-500 students only). You are required to submit two extended reflections. You can choose any two of the presentations for your extended reflections. Extended reflections should also summarize and discuss the talk as in the reflections (described above), but should also integrate at least two related research papers. For example, locate related research by going to the speaker's web site (if applicable) or searching the research topic. Extended reflections should be at least two full pages (single-spaced). Include a list of references for the research papers you consult. All papers listed as a reference must be cited within the body of the paper. That is, whenever you mention specific information from one of the research papers in your reference list, cite the reference within the body of your paper. Copied text may be included only if it constitutes a small portion of the reflection, if it is clearly indicated by quotation marks, and if it is preceded or followed by a citation (brief pointer to the source in the reference list). Extended reflections are graded on how well they identify the research components, evaluate the talk, connect to your own experience, and integrate additional relevant research references.