

# CS 697: Graduate Student Initiation

## Lecture I: Introduction

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**Manos Athanassoulis**

**Ankush Das**

**Jan 21, 2026**

# Course Details

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- ▶ Instructors: *Manos Athanassoulis* and *Ankush Das*
- ▶ Location: *CAS 326*
- ▶ One lecture per week
- ▶ Time: Wednesday, 10:10am — 11am
- ▶ Course Webpage: <https://bu-disc.github.io/CS697/>

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- ▶ Attendance is mandatory. We will take attendance, and it will count towards your grade
  - ▶ This is a *student-driven course*. Students prepare the lecture slides, deliver the lectures, ask and answer questions, set the assignments, etc.
  - ▶ Sign up for each lecture: <https://tinyurl.com/S26-CS697-BU>
  - ▶ Each lecture will have a discussion leader who will prepare *slides*, present the *main points*, along with a set of *questions* for class discussion
  - ▶ Add your name, class info, and date to slides
  - ▶ You can use prior years' slides as reference (**but don't blindly copy**)
  - ▶ Prior to lecture:
    - ▶ Leader should post the slides and a message on Piazza with links / material to be discussed
    - ▶ Others: Review the material and come up with your own questions.

- ▶ There will be 6 deliverables total
- ▶ Deliverables must be your own! **No group submissions permitted \***
- ▶ 1. Personal academic website
- ▶ 2. Presentation as discussion leader **\*exception**
- ▶ 3. Research paper review
- ▶ 4. Peer-evaluation of 2 reviews
- ▶ 5. Technical paper write-up
- ▶ 6. Peer-evaluation of technical paper

# Deadlines

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- ▶ Submit website link (**Jan 28**)
- ▶ Decide paper to review; send us paper link and 2-3 sentence justification (**Feb 25**)
- ▶ Submit paper review (**Mar 18**)
- ▶ Randomly assign two reviews to each student for peer evaluation (**Mar 25**)
- ▶ Send a title and abstract for paper write-up (**Apr 1**)
- ▶ Submit final technical paper write-up (**Apr 15**)
- ▶ Randomly assign one write-up to provide peer review (**Apr 29**)

# Course Topics (Suggestions very welcome!)

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1. Choosing and managing relationship with advisor
2. Identifying, reading, reviewing, and writing research papers
3. Research presentations; effective communication
4. Experimental design / Data analysis
5. Academic conduct, acknowledging work, detecting / avoiding plagiarism
6. Finding resources in and beyond BU
7. Time management

# Round of Introductions?