

C S 601R-001 Winter 2010 - Comments

Responses: 2 Total

I think Dr. McCarthy is very skilled at explaining difficult concepts in a way that makes them more understandable. There were several things I had tried to learn on my own prior to my class that I understood much better having taken it.

I felt that the most valuable part of the course was the first 5 or so papers where we were forced to learn some of the core theory behind PL research. The papers at the end, however, while interesting, felt more like showcasing of cool Scheme toys. First of all, I think that these papers could be gone over in a day instead of two days. Second, with the extra days, I think it would be more interesting to let each student select a research paper of their choosing and present it to the class.

Lastly, I feel like it would be nice to have a little more structure in the class. I really enjoyed the format of reading, reviewing, and presenting the research papers. It helps us develop valuable skills for our graduate experience and imposes a very small burden on the professor. However, adding a little extra structure improve the learning experience in the class. For instance, there could be some kind of worksheet problems to help us make sure we understand theoretical concepts better, or there could be small coding projects to help us solidify our understanding of a paper.

It was much harder in the beginning trying to understand the first few papers, but that experience will be extremely valuable. Very useful class. Fun too.
