Teaching Assistant Orientation

Fall 2017

Neeraj Kumar

cs.ucsb.edu/~leadta
Teaching Assistant Orientation

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Who Are We?

Neeraj Kumar
3rd Year PhD Student
Geometric Algorithms Lab
Lead TA for Academic Year 2017-18

Elizabeth Belding
Professor and Vice Chair
Our Goal

Be Great TAs, you must!
TA’ing CS Courses at UCSB

Teaching ≡ Explaining complex subject matter in easy to understand, intuitive ways

Responsibilities
TA’ing CS Courses at UCSB

Teaching ≡ Explaining complex subject matter in easy to understand, intuitive ways

Responsibilities

- Leading Discussion sections / Labs
TA’ing CS Courses at UCSB

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Responsibilities

- Leading Discussion sections / Labs
- Other Responsibilities
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Responsibilities

Discussion Sections

- 50 mins lecture-type setting
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Discussion Sections

– 50 mins lecture-type setting

– Review lectures, additional topics
– solve examples and in-class exercises
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Discussion Sections

- 50 mins lecture-type setting
- Review lectures, additional topics
  solve examples and in-class exercises
- Group Attention
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Coordinate with course instructor!
TA’ing CS Courses at UCSB

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Other Responsibilities

Office hours
TA’ing CS Courses at UCSB

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➢ Typically 2-4 hours per week
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- Don’t be late or leave early!
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Be available until grades are submitted!
Why Should You Care..

- Personal Satisfaction of “doing your job well”
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- Makes you a better at giving talks

Industry or Academia
Why Should You Care..

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- Makes you a better at giving talks
- Student Appreciation

Bragging Rights :-}
Why Should You Care..

- Personal Satisfaction of “doing your job well”
- Makes you a better at giving talks
- Student Appreciation
- Department Appreciation: TA Awards
- Certificates, Cash Awards
- Nomination for campus-wide awards
Why Should You Care..

- Personal Satisfaction of “doing your job well”
- Makes you a better at giving talks
- Student Appreciation
- Department Appreciation: TA Awards
- Lead TA position

Enough said :-(
How to Be a Better TA...

CS 501: Teaching Assistant Seminar
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-Taught by the Lead TA-
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- Tips and tricks for CS courses, closely follows UCSB TA handbook
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http://oic.id.ucsb.edu/ta-handbook/
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Preparation ➔ Confidence
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- Prepare your lecture notes / slides well in advance
Your First Section

![Diagram showing Preparation and Confidence]

- Prepare your lecture notes / slides well in advance
- Specify your plan for the lecture
Your First Section

Preparation ➔ Confidence

- Prepare your lecture notes / slides well in advance
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- Try not to fit too much material!
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Coordinate with instructor
Your First Section

**Preparation**

- Prepare your lecture notes / slides well in advance
- Specify your plan for the lecture
- Try not to fit too much material!
- Make it interactive but not too interactive

**Confidence**

- Coordinate with instructor
Your First Section

**Preparation** 

- Prepare your lecture notes / slides well in advance
- Specify your plan for the lecture
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**Confidence**

- Coordinate with instructor

Work out Logistics such location of your room, projector, keys etc
Teaching Contract

An agreement between the course instructor and you
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- Review to insure you are not overworked
- Revise if necessary
- Get it signed by the instructor
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TA Rights (50 % TA)

- 8 hours per day (Max)
- 20 hours per week (Average)
- 40 hours (max) in any week
- 220 hours per quarter
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An agreement between the course instructor and you

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TA Rights (50 % TA)

- 8 hours per day (Max)
- 20 hours per week (Average)
- 40 hours (max) in any week
- 220 hours per quarter

Time includes all responsibilities such as attending lectures, TA training (CS 501), preparing notes etc.
TA Union – UAW Local 2865

http://www.uaw2865.org/
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Negotiates contract for wages and benefits

Same minimum wage across the university

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Membership for life, but fee needed if you are working as ASE

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Academic Student Employee

Membership for life, but fee needed if you are working as ASE

To join, you pay a one-time Initiation Fee (currently $10). All ASEs pay a percentage of their wages in Fair Share Fees (1.20% as of Aug. 1, 2016, or about $26/month for a 50% TA position), but for approximately $5 more a month (1.44% as of Aug. 1, 2016) you can be a member (and part of a strong student-worker movement).
Lead TA Roles

In addition to the CS 501 seminar ...
Lead TA Roles

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- TA Evaluations
  - Midterm and End of Quarter
Lead TA Roles

In addition to the CS 501 seminar ...

- TA Evaluations
  - Midterm and End of Quarter

- TA Consultations
  - Office Hours, Wed 4-4:50 pm, CS Grad Lounge, HFH
  - 1-on-1 coffee (on demand)
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- **Represent TAs on the Graduate Affairs committee**
Things to do Next
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CS 501

- Enroll in CS 501 (on GOLD) asap
- Enroll in piazza page piazza.com/ucsb/fall2017/cs501/home
- Be at Phelps 2510 next Wednesday (5 or 6 pm)
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❖ Enroll in CS 501 (on GOLD) asap
❖ Enroll in piazza page  piazza.com/ucsb/fall2017/cs501/home
❖ Be at Phelps 2510 next Wednesday (5 or 6 pm)

For the course you are TA’ing

❖ Meet with the instructor
❖ Review your TA contract and get it signed
❖ Establish good communication pattern : weekly meetings etc
❖ Your first section!
Always pass on what you have learned.

Yoda
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Yoda

Questions?