

6.911 - Architectures Anonymous Course Format and Requirements

Classes

Each class will consist of two student presentations on different topics, with a five minute break in between. At the end of the class, the instructors will give a brief introduction to next week's topics and will hand out several relevant papers. It is expected that all students will look over these papers to familiarize themselves with the material.

Questions

After reading the papers, each student must come up with at least two questions (at least one per topic) that they would like to have answered during the presentations. These questions must be emailed to aa@ai.mit.edu no later than 5:00pm on the Friday after the papers are handed out. The questions will be forwarded to the presenters (presenters do not have to submit questions).

Presentations

Presentations should be between 30 and 45 minutes in length; 55 minutes will be allotted for each presentation and ensuing questions/discussion. Presenters need to gain a good understanding of their topic, and are encouraged to research the topic beyond the papers that are handed out in class. However, keep in mind that the purpose of the presentation is not to convince the instructors of your own understanding, but to teach the topic to the rest of the class. Each presentation should contain the following information (as appropriate):

- Summary of the technology, outlining the key innovation(s)
- Advantages/disadvantages of the technology and comparison to other methods
- Design alternatives for the technology, and ways in which it could be improved
- Applications for which the technology is well-suited
- Information which answers classmates' questions

Written Reports

After giving their presentation, each presenter must prepare a 2-4 page written report on their topic. The report should reflect the presentation, including questions and discussion. It should serve as an introduction for someone with a general background in computer architecture but no specific knowledge of your topic (e.g. next year's students). Reports are due in electronic format no later than 7pm Tuesday, one week **after** the presentation.

Grading

To pass this course, each student must do one presentation and subsequent write-up, submit questions each week, and attend classmates' presentations.