Computer Science 480 Directed Reading

To enroll in CPSC 480 this term, please complete this form and have it approved by the DUS no later than at least two days before your course schedule is due. Attach a plan of study (3 pages, single-spaced) that includes

- a description of the topic and objectives;
- a list of the books or other materials you will be reading;
- the nature of any homework or papers;
- the kind and frequency of meetings with your advisor;
- your qualifications to undertake a study of this topic; and
- a statement of how such a study fits into your academic goals.

Student's Name: ________________________________

I have read the attached plan of study (3 pages, single-spaced) and agree to advise the directed reading outlined therein.

Advisor's Name: ________________________________

Advisor's Signature: ________________________________

End-of-Term Requirement

The following requirement must be completed by noon on the last day of reading period:

- Give the DUS an updated and more detailed plan of study that reflects what actually transpired.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is CPSC 480?

   Individual study (under the supervision of a faculty advisor) of an area of computer science not covered in a regular course.

2. Who may advise CPSC 480?

   Any faculty member with a regular appointment in the Department of Computer Science. The advisor meets with the student (normally for at least one hour per week), sets the requirements, evaluates the work, and assigns the final grade.

3. What topics are appropriate?

   Any area of computer science not covered in a regular course.

4. How do I choose a topic?

   There are two general approaches
   - student sells topic to advisor: e.g., you identify an area of computer science not covered in a regular course, write a 3-page plan of study that includes the information requested above, and find a faculty member willing to meet with you regularly and supervise your study (this may require changes in the plan)
   - advisor sells topic to student: e.g., a faculty member has a list of possible reading courses, and the student selects one (this may involve changes in the topic)

   and a host of possibilities in between.
5. **What are the requirements?**
   In addition to the end-of-term requirement described above, the course must have some kind of “product,” such as regular homework or examinations, a final examination, a series of short essays, or a term essay.

6. **How often may I take CPSC 480?**
   While you may not count the course as an elective in any of the computer science majors, you may take it one or more times for Yale credit.

7. **May a group of students study the same topic in CPSC 480?**
   Yes.

8. **How does CPSC 480 differ from CPSC 490 and CPSC 290?**
   There is no project in CPSC 480.