

## **6.962: Graduate Seminar in Communications**

Evaluation Feedback, 13 December 2000

### **1) What were the three aspects of the class (e.g. format, topics, style of presentation, etc.) you most liked?**

1. Summaries available beforehand (7)
2. Tutorial-like format of talks (4)
3. Discussions - informality (4)
4. Discussions - interactive (3)
5. Presentation quality (3)
6. Freedom of presenters to choose own topic (3)
7. Topics - Depth and Breadth (3)
8. Faculty presence (3)
9. Presenting a topic not familiar with (2)
10. Papers available 1 wk beforehand
11. Topics – learning about current research areas
12. Student Driven
13. Organization of topics into 3 or 4 topic areas. worked well
14. Iterative coding talks
15. Concentrated effort (week presented) and ability to leverage other's knowledge other weeks.
16. Flexibility – even if had to miss meeting, could pick up ideas through summary and over lunch.

### **2) What three changes could help make the class even better?**

1. Cookies and drinks. (4)
2. Less lecture, more informal discussion, (50-50) (3)
3. Use blackboard rather than slides (3)
4. Make sure papers available at least 1 week beforehand. (2)
5. More tutorial approach. (2)
6. Sometimes faculty dominated discussion (tough call since we also benefited from hearing their words of wisdom.) (2)
7. Emphasis on presenting the main ideas intuitively through examples rather than a lot of results. (2)

8. Recruit more widely in department.
9. If people volunteer for unfamiliar topics.
10. Broader array of topics - control or signal processing.
11. Limit presentation time to 30 min, then informal discussion.
12. Get rid of post-lecture report
13. Concentrate on smaller number of ideas within in each paper.
14. More people read papers before coming to class
15. Practical bent - what are people designing and why?
16. More discussion during talks
17. More non-DSPG students
18. Get rid of summaries so people can focus on developing simple examples for presentation.
19. Encouraging more interaction amongst the students
20. Make sure at least one survey talk in each topic area

**3) Of the above changes, if you could make only one change for the next time the class is held, which would it be?**

1. Cookies and drink.
2. Change time so SSG (Wilsky's Group) students can attend
3. The faculty should be more involved in terms of choosing the papers or even the outline of the content. This would encourage me to choose a topic that I am not familiar with.
4. Cancelling summaries and investing time in examples instead.
5. At least three sessions on each topic area.
6. Fewer topic areas.
7. Present tutorial on subject before delving into paper.
8. Recruiting more widely from department.
9. Wider array of topics.
10. Think about involving additional faculty.

**4) What topics would you recommend for future classes?**

1. The important thing is that people present what they like (2)
2. Theme can vary according to the interests of the participants, and need not be focussed on communications;
3. Interaction between physical layer and higher layers.

4. I think a repeat of the topics would be fine.
  5. Object recognition, other topics on image processing, video compression.
  6. Computer networks / internet issues. How does akamai work? Signal / image / speech processing.
  7. Subspace methods (music, esprit ...), blind methods for detection, source separation etc., cyclostationarity and use for equalization, coding.
  8. Speech, video, optical communications.
  9. Turbo code implementation issues, spread spectrum, CDMA.
  10. Similar to this time: Info Theory/Coding/Wireless.
  11. Estimation Theory not in 6.432.
  12. Detection and Estimation, Wavelets, maybe something about Networks.
  13. Wireless networks, Simulation techniques, Random matrices, Linear and non-linear optimization, Learning theory, Digital watermarking, Historical anecdotes about Shannon, Gallager, etc., Chess (dynamic programming)
- 5) Assuming there is faculty and departmental support, would you sign up for a similar course if it were held next semester?**
1. Yes (8)
  2. Undecided (3)
- 6) Assuming the course is held again (and you decide to take it), would you be interested in helping with the organization? (E.g. reserving the room, updating the website, etc.)**
1. Yes (6)
  2. Undecided (2)