

Team Formation

Due date: Thursday, September 20, in-class

Assignment

This quarter, most of assignments will be done in teams. For simplicity, we will fix the teams for the duration of the quarter. Each team will work on multiple small – to mid-sized, possibly independent assignments and projects throughout the quarter.

Our first order of business is to build teams. The constraints/requirements are:

- **Size.** Between three and five people. I prefer teams of size *four* or *five*. Larger teams proved to be inefficient in the context of a graduate course. Smaller teams may yield more work than necessary for each team member.
- **Structure.** It is not unusual in graduate courses to form teams around a specific project idea. In this course, each team will, at some point, engage in an independent research project of its choosing. However, we won't complete the specs on this project until somewhat later in the quarter. At the same time, there are some other course activities that are best performed by teams. When forming teams, please remember that at some point you will be negotiating the subject matter of a research project. If someone already has an idea of what (s)he wants to do, discuss it briefly to determine if you are ok with it. If your team does not have a immediate project direction in mind, agree to negotiate it later.
- **Chemistry.** You will be doing a lot of different things, small, and not so small, as a team. When forming teams, please make sure each teammate is ready to work with others on the team. You should be willing to pull your weight, actively contribute to the team discourse,

and, yes, on occasion, when things don't go as expected, cover for your teammates, as your teammates would cover for you. Time is too precious in this course to spend it dealing with personality issues.

Deliverable. By classtime *Thursday, September 20* one person from each team needs to send me an email at dekhtyar@calpoly.edu with the team name (**pick a team name!**) and the list of team members and their email addresses. Bring a hardcopy of the team roster to class and be ready to partition into teams if needed (we may have some team-based activities on September 20).

Team-based assignments will start on September 20, so be ready!