	Vital Info

Course Number: 85-392/792

Home Page: http://www.cmu.edu/blackboard/

Class Schedule: Tue & Thur 9:00am – 10:20am in BH 340A

Instructor: Marsha C. Lovett
124 Cyert Hall (x8-3499)
Email: Lovett@cmu.edu
Office hours: By appointment

Objectives

In this course, you will learn about:

- up-to-date results on expertise and skilled performance
- the methods and theories of this research area
- what it takes to become an expert — first hand!

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to
- relate important findings to theories of expertise and skill acquisition
- see the patterns (and oddities) in how people develop expertise
- read primary articles from the expertise literature and discuss them

Overview

Have you ever wondered how human chess experts keep beating (well, almost always keep beating) the computer program DeepBlue? Have you ever considered what makes the performances of Yo-yo Ma, Tiger Woods, and Kevin Spacey so great? Have you ever wanted to be an expert at X (you fill in the blank) without really trying? Have you actually tried to become an expert or highly skilled performer in a particular domain and needed help deciding on the best approach?

In this course, we will address these and many other questions. In particular, we will be reading from the primary literature on expertise (i.e., psychology journal articles) and from other relevant sources (e.g., review chapters, news stories, biographies). We will cover a variety of domains, from chess to sports to visual arts. Also as part of this course, you will each learn first-hand what it takes to acquire expertise by practicing a skill of your choice and documenting your progress throughout the semester. Finally, you will research and write about the development of expertise in a particular domain.