UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

CMSC 351-0301: Algorithms

Fall 2021

Course Information

Course Title: Algorithms
Course Number: CMSC 351-0301
Term: Fall 2021

Professor: Mohammad Nayeem Teli
Office Phone: 301-405-0405
Email: nayeem@umd.edu

Instructor:

Mohammad Nayeem Teli, nayeem@cs.umd.edu, Sections 0301.
Office: IRB 1128 Office phone: 301-405-0405.

Course Overview: This course presents an introduction to the techniques for designing efficient computer algorithms and analyzing their running times. General topics include asymptotics, solving summations and recurrences, algorithm design techniques, analysis of data structures, and introduction to NP-completeness.

Text: Thomas Cormen, Charles Leiserson, Ron Rivest, and Clifford Stein, *Introduction to Algorithms*, McGraw Hill and MIT Press. Any edition.

Prerequisites: Each student is expected to know the basic concepts of programming (e.g. loops, pointers, recursion), discrete mathematics (proof by induction, sets), simple data structures (lists, stacks, queues, trees), and calculus (logarithms, differentiation, integration).

Course Work and Exams: Course work will consist of written homework assignments, two midterm exams, and a final. You may discuss homework problems and general solution strategies with classmates, but you ***must*** write up the solutions yourself.

Homework assignments will be turned in on Gradescope, https://www.gradescope.com/.

As a courtesy to the grader, homeworks are to be written clearly and neatly. Poorly written work will not be graded. When writing algorithms be sure not only that your solution is correct, but also that it is easy for the grader to understand why your solution is correct. Part of your grade will be based not only on correctness, but also on the simplicity, clarity, and elegance of your solutions.

Exams:

The midterm exams will be:

Tuesday, October 05, from 6:30pm–8:30pm
Thursday, November 11, from 6:30pm–8:30pm

The final exam will be:

Friday, Decmber 17 from 4:00pm–6:00pm

If any of these exam dates are a problem for you, get in touch with the course staff now.

Piazza: We will be using Piazza (www.piazza.com), a question-and-answer system designed to streamline discussion outside of the classroom. It supports LaTeX, code formatting, embedding of images, and attaching of files. It will be moderated by the instructors and TAs, but students are encouraged to answer questions.

Gradescope: We will be using Gradescope to hand in assignments, and to see grades. For those who haven't used it before, Gradescope is an online submission system for class assignments and tests and for grading them quickly. In this class, we will add you to the Gradescope roster for CMSC 351 automatically. You will upload your submissions for your assignments, and they will be graded by us via a template. Please note that each submission to Gradescope MUST contain the entire assignment, not just part of it. You may submit assignments as scans of your written work or as PDFs of typed documents. Also note that Gradescope contains a "regrade request" that allows you to directly tell us if there is an issue with how we graded a problem, and we will regrade it if necessary. Please use this feature only when you are sure there has been a mistake, or are completely unclear on why you lost points from our feedback.

ELMS: We will be using ELMS to get solutions, post final grades and to see recorded lectures (if any).

Grading: Final grades will be based on the written assignments, two midterm exams, and a final exam. The weights of these will be approximately 1.5% for each regular homework, 25% for each midterm, and the remaining percentage (about 32-35%) for the final exam.

Late Penalty: You may submit your homework late by one day with a penalty of 20% off of your actual grade. However, there is one, get of jail free card. That means you may submit only one homework late by one day without any penalty.

Disability Support Services: Any student eligible for and requesting reasonable academic accommodations due to a disability is requested to provide, to the instructor in office hours, a letter of accommodation from the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) within the first two weeks of the semester.

Course Evaluations: The Department of Computer Science takes the student course evaluations very seriously. Evaluations will usually be open during the last few weeks of the course. Students can go to www.courseevalum.umd.edu to complete their evaluations.

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Mask Requirements University policy is that face coverings over the nose and mouth are required while you are indoors at all times for all vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. There are no exceptions. Students not wearing a mask will be given a warning and asked to wear one, or will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. Students who have additional issues with the mask expectation after a first warning will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for failure to comply with a directive of University officials.

Syllabus: This is the current version of the syllabus. The instructors reserve the right to change it at any time.

Topics: The following is a *tentative* list of topics and readings in *approximate* order.

1. Introduction, Ch. 1,2

2. Quadratic Sorting Algorithms, Ch. 2
3. Summations, Appendix A
4. Merge Sort, Ch. 2
5. Growth of Functions, Ch. 3
6. Recurrences (Integer Multiplication) Ch. 4
7. Heapsort, Ch. 6
8. Quicksort, Ch. 7
9. Sorting in Linear Time, Ch. 8
10. Medians and Order Statistics, Ch. 9
11. Graphs and Trees, Appendix B
12. Minimum Spanning Trees, Ch. 23
13. Dijkstra's algorithm, Ch. 24.3
14. Brief introduction to NP-completeness, Ch. 34