

# CMSC 250 Syllabus

## Summer 2008

<http://www.cs.umd.edu/class/summer2008/cmcs250>

Peter Fontana

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### 1 Welcome!

Welcome to CMSC 250! I hope that you will find this class very fulfilling. Here are the basic details:

**Instructor:**

Peter Fontana  
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Office: AVW #3457

**Teaching Assistant:**

Mohammad Ghodsi  
ghodsi@cs.umd.edu

**Course Webpage:**

see Syllabus title.

**Class Time and Location:**

Lecture: MTuWTh 11:00am-12:20pm, CSI 1122  
Discussion: F 11:00am-12:20pm, CSI 1122

**Textbook:**

*Discrete Mathematics with Applications*, Third Edition. Susanna S. Epp. Thompson Learning - Brooks/Cole, 2004. ISBN:0-534-35945-0

**Office Hours:**

TBA. Most of the office hours will be held in the TA office, which is AVW #1112.

**Note on week two of classes:** Due to circumstances outside my control, for the second week of classes **Mon. 6/9/08 - Fri. 6/13/08**, class and discussion will be held in ***EGR 3114***. The first week of classes and all classes after Fri. 6/13/08 will be held in CSI 1122.

If the office hours do not work for you, or if they do but you want to see me in private, please talk to me

or e-mail me. Also, you are always welcome to stop by at AVW #3457 anytime. If the door is closed, feel free to knock. It is often closed when people are in there. I may be too busy at that time and I will not always be there, but you are welcome to try at any time.

Do not hesitate to contact me. I want to help all of you succeed in this course!

Feel free to see me, see the TA, each other, or to obtain outside help, but please *don't be afraid to ask somebody for help when you feel you need it!*

### 2 Course Outline

Another sheet will contain a Tentative Class Schedule, with a list of readings that follow along with the topics covered. This schedule outlines the course. It is tentative and may be changed throughout the course.

### 3 Grading and Exams

Here are the percentage weights of the class components for grades:

- Homeworks: 15%
- Quizzes: 10%
- Exam 1: 25%
- Exam 2: 25%
- Final Exam: 25%

Note that the Homeworks and Quizzes together count as much as one Exam.

### 3.1 Homeworks

There will usually be homework assignments given out twice a week: on Tuesdays during class and on Fridays during discussion. The homeworks given on Tuesdays are usually due the following Friday, and the homeworks given on Fridays are usually due the following Tuesday. Each homework must be turned in within the *first 15 minutes* of the class or discussion, or it will be counted late. All homework assignments must be handwritten or typed, and each person must write or type their own assignment, and must neatly print or type his/her name on each homework. All homework grades will be equally weighted *the lowest homework score will be dropped*.

#### Policy on Doing Homeworks:

For the homeworks, you are allowed to work with **anybody**, and are *strongly encouraged* to work together. You may work as closely together as you want. My only requirement is that you type or hand-write the solution yourself. (Note that this is “*do it yourself*”, **not** “*do it by yourself*”.) If you do choose to work with classmates, please mention who you worked with. **You do not have to write the Honor Pledge on Homeworks.**

Also, you are welcome to use any outside sources to aid you in understanding to solve the problems. If you happen to stumble on the exact solution to a homework problem, you are welcome to use it. You are then allowed to write the solution in your own words and/or verify your solution with it. However, you must **cite the source and pages (or URL) that this problem came from**. If you read outside sources for understanding, you need not cite them. You only need to cite the sources that contain material that you wrote on the homework. However, a word of caution. Often there are Theorems and Lemmas that are not in the textbook and were not covered in class, discussion or a previous assignment. While some books may use these Theorems in their proofs for problems similar to homework problems, you are **not allowed** to just say “this is proven in (source here)”. You must give me **the theorem and the proof of it with a citation** before you may use the Theorem.

To me, what matters is that ***you learn from doing the homeworks***. Collaboration is meant to *aid* you in learning, not to simply give you answers. Just blindly copying answers will *not help you learn*. This course does not just focus on content, but on proof-writing skills and problem-solving skills. When you

collaborate, make sure that you are *thinking* so that you will learn these skills from the homework. In summary, ***make sure you understand everything that you are doing and writing***.

#### Policy on Lateness:

Normally, a late homework is worth **zero credit**. However, each student will receive ***two free lates***. This means, that for **any** reason, you may turn in the homework anytime before the next business day. If a homework was due on Tuesday at 11:15am, you have until 11:15am on Wednesdays. If a homework was due at 11:15am on Friday, you have until 11:15 am on Monday (not Saturday) to turn it in. These *free late* papers will be graded **without penalty**. This is to cover reasons such as oversleeping, stuck in traffic, forgot about class, feeling sick (but didn't need to see a doctor), etc. You may use these for *any* two assignments. However, the third and all subsequent lates are worth *zero credit* unless another reason is provided.

If you do have a more serious circumstance, such as a death/hospitalization of a family member, sick enough to see a doctor (documentation is required for this), stormed out by weather, please talk to me, and we will work something out. These lates will not be deducted from the free lates.

### 3.2 Quizzes

There will be a quiz on most Fridays during discussion. It will be given out the last 15 minutes of discussion. You will have 15 minutes to take the quiz, and they will be closed-book, closed-note and closed-neighbor except for the rulesheet. Please bring your rulesheet to use for the quizzes. You do not have to write the Honor Pledge on quizzes.

Each quiz will be equally weighted, and the *lowest quiz score for each student will be dropped*. If you have a reasonable reason that you are not able to make discussion section, please talk to me and we will work something out.

### 3.3 Exams

There will be two exams during the semester and a final. Here are the dates of the Exams:

1. **Exam 1:** Wednesday, June 18, 11:00am-12:20pm (in class)
2. **Exam 2:** Thursday July 10, 11:00am-12:20pm (in class) (This was moved to 1 day later).

3. **Final:** Friday, July 25, 11:00am-12:20pm (in discussion). me beforehand. You are free to refer others to these materials for personal use.

All exams are “in-class”, closed-note, closed-book and closed-neighbor, except for the rule sheet given in class. You will be provided a clean copy of it during *each* exam.

## 4 Excused Absences and Accommodations for Disabilities

If you have a disability and request special accommodations, please talk to me. If you need services certified by Disability Support Services (DSS), please bring documentation if available.

If you feel that you have an excused absence when a quiz is given, homework is due or a test is given, please talk to me and bring documentation if possible.

All special requests should be made *one week in advance*, if at all possible.

## 5 Academic Integrity

For each Exam, the Campus Senate requests that you write and sign the Honor Pledge on it. The Honor Pledge will be typed for you to copy on each exam. I am *waiving* the request to write the Honor Pledge on homeworks and quizzes (as allowed in clause 4 of the Code of Academic Integrity). (You will not lose points for writing the Honor Pledge on an assignment or quiz though.)

However, you are subject to the *Code of Academic Integrity* regardless of whether you write or sign the Honor Pledge or not. You may find the Code of Academic Integrity at

<http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/code.html>.

If we find any instances of cheating, we will perform the necessary disciplinary action. We also reserve the right to give you an XF for the course.

## 6 Copyright

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