

## CMSC 435 (Section 0201) : Quiz 5

1. **Please remember to write your name and SSN on this sheet before handing it in.** <sup>1</sup>
2. What are the advantages of formal specifications? Where might they be useful/applicable?
  - Formal specification involves investing more effort in the early phases of software development. This reduces requirements errors as it forces a detailed analysis of the requirements. Incompleteness and inconsistencies can be discovered and resolved.
  - Their principal benefits are in reducing the number of errors in systems so their main area of applicability is critical systems.
3. What are the disadvantages of formal specifications? Why are formal specifications not used in mainstream software development?
  - Other software engineering techniques have been successful at increasing system quality.
  - Market changes have made time-to-market rather than software with a low error count the key factor. Formal methods do not reduce time to market.
  - Formal methods are hard to scale up to large systems.

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<sup>1</sup>(Nyogtha a.k.a The Dweller in the darkness, The thing that should not be: Couldnt get an SSN)