CMSC 198B: Computer Science– A Hands off Approach  
(NOTE- this document is two pages so don’t miss the second page.)

Overview: We study cryptography, combinatorics, probability, graph theory, and some algorithms. These are all topics useful for computer science that do not involve programming.

Class Time and Place: July 13-July 31

Note: This is part of Univ of MD’s Young Scholars Program.

Website for CMSC 198: www.cs.umd.edu/~gasarch/198/Su15/Su15.html

Text: Notes will be made available.

Prerequisites: High School Algebra. More math is a plus. No programming needed. If you DO know how to program then there will be some optional programming assignments for fun.

Content

1. Classical Crypto: Alice and Bob get to meet. Later they can secretly communicate even if Eve intercepts the message! (Shift Cipher, Linear Cipher, Vigenere Cipher, Matrix Cipher, 1-time pad, others). We will show several codes are UNCRACKABLE and then CRACK them.

2. Modern Crypto: Alice and Bob do not have to meet! Diffie-Helman Key Exchange. We will show that this code is UNCRACKABLE and then CRACK it.

3. Secret Sharing with polynomials: Any three or more of Alice, Bob, Carol, Donna, Eve can read the message but no two can. UNCRACKABLE!

4. Secret Sharing with cards: Alice and Bob can establish a shared secret key right in front of Eve! UNCRACKABLE!

5. The Millionaires Problem: Alice and Bob are both wealth. They want to compare salaries. But they don’t want to actually reveal their salaries. Is there a protocol so that in the end they know who makes more money, but neither one knows the other ones salary? Yes!

6. Error-correcting Codes: You transmit a long sequence of digits. But there may be an error in transmission! Can you detect it? Can you correct it?

7. Nim Games: Simple games with nice patterns!

8. Misc Topics Based on Time and Tastes!

Policy:

The policies below may change slightly over the course of the course.

Grading: There will be (roughly) daily HW, one midterm, and one final. Class participation is worth 10%, HW is worth 20%, the midterm is worth 30%, and Final is worth 40%.
MIDTERM: July 22 FINAL: July 30. For HW, Midterm, Final you must hand in your own work—academic dishonesty will be dealt with harshly, resulting in a hearing in front of the academic honor council. HW must be neatly written. You will lose points for sloppiness.

HW, Mid, Final Excuse Policy: Any missed work requires a documented excuse.

Office Hours and Contact Information Prof Gasarch, AVW 3245, 405-2698, gasarch@cs.umd.edu. Off. Hrs: TBD

Accommodations: Students requesting academic accommodations due to a disability should make such a request to the instructor in office hours, with a letter of accommodation from the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) within the first two weeks of the semester.