

**Syllabus (Policy) CMSC 250: Discrete Structures**  
<http://www/cs.umd.edu/~gasarch/COURSES/250/S15/S15.html>

**Overview:** Discrete Structures is concerned with math concepts that come up in computer science. We will also learn many proof techniques including contradiction and induction.

**Lecture Time and Place:** Tu-Th 12:30-1:45 CSI 3120.

**Recitation Time and Place:** Mo-We 12:00-12:50 CSI 1121.

**GRADING:** There will be (roughly) weekly HW, weekly Quizzes, two midterms, and one final. HW is worth ROUGHLY 10% (1% each HW, prob 10 or 11 HW, so maybe a bit more than %15). Quizzes are worth ROUGHLY 10% (same deal). Two midterm is worth 20% each, so 40% total. One Final is worth ROUGHLY 40% (whatever is left, might be a bit less).

*MIDTERM ONE:* Wed Feb 25, 6:00PM-8:00PM

*MIDTERM TWO:* Wed Apri 8, 6:00PM-8:00PM

*FINAL:* TUE May 19, 1:30PM-3:30PM

If you cannot be at the midterm then inform Dr. Gasarch by Feb 3, 2015.

**HW, Mid, Final Excuse Policy:** The HW will typically be DUE on Tuesday in class. However, you can hand it in one days later on Wednesday in recitation AT THE BEGINNING of recitation. I regard this as having given you a 1-day extension. So if you are sick (without doctors note) or have a personal crisis or whatever then you do indeed get an extension from Mon to Wed. Any other extension will be given with documentation (e.g., a doctors note). If you miss an exam and can provide a documented excuse within a day then you will get a makeup. If you know you will not be able to take an exam or do a HW on time ahead of time for Religious or other reasonable reasons, let me know during the first week.

**WARNING:** You REALLY SHOULD think of the HW as due on Tuesday.

1. If you regularly hand it in late this will be held against you if you are on a grade borderline (e.g., I certainly won't give an A+ to someone who hands HW in late often.)
2. Handing it in on Wed regularly will make me have a less good impression of you which will NOT impact your grade but WILL impact a letter I might write for you.
3. We will be happy to answer questions about the HW by email or office hours or recitations on Monday and Tuesday (before its due) but NOT on Wednesday.
4. It may happen that I have a typo or a point that is not clear on the HW. My bad. If you start the HW on time and hence email me about this on Monday (or ask the TA on Monday Recitation) then it can be cleared up on time. By contrast if you email me about a typo on Wed morning then I will NOT have sympathy even though its my fault since you started late.
5. It WILL happen that you happen to leave your HW in your dorm, or your dog ate it, or your cat died, maybe ONCE during the semester. You would rather have planned to hand it in on Tuesday and THEN use the Wed-option and be okay. If any of those happen and you hence can't hand it in on Wed not only won't you be able to but I will laugh at the pain you feel because of your dead cat. (or your dead dog— eating HW is rough on a dog's digestive system.)

**How does 250H differ from 250?** Our HW, Quizzes, Exams are independent of 250. We will cover the same material. However there are two key differences (1) We will cover it a bit faster so that we will once every 2 weeks (or so) have a session where you work in groups on some interesting problems that are a bit too hard for this course normally. There will be a light HW on that material to keep you and me honest. (2) The recitations will cover some extra material. There will be a light HW on that material to keep you and me honest.

**Office Hours and Contact Information** Prof Gasarch, AVW 3245, 405-2698, [gasarch@cs.umd.edu](mailto:gasarch@cs.umd.edu).  
Off. Hrs: Tu-Th: 11:00-12:30, 1:45-3:15. Also by appointment- I am on campus most days. TA is Ioana Bercea [ioana.bercea@gmail.com](mailto:ioana.bercea@gmail.com). Her office hours are Monday 1:30-3:30

**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.

**Course Evaluations** In May you will be asked to fill out course evals. I will urge you to fill it out carefully.

**Text:** Pick up an OLD EDITION of *Discrete Mathematics with Applications* by Epp for the course. I have not ordered it through the bookstore since they would get you the book for over \$100.

**Prerequisites:** C- or higher in Math 131 and 141 AND permission of the dept of CS.

**Laptop Policy:** Laptops not allowed in class unless you are taking notes with it.