

Syllabus (Policy) CMSC 452: Elementary Theory of Computation
Syllabus (Policy) CMSC 452: GREAT IDEAS IN COMPUTER SCIENCE
<http://www/cs.umd.edu/~gasarch/COURSES/452/S17/S17.html>

Overview: The Theory of Comp. is concerned with the following problem: given a set, how difficult is it? In a course in algorithms you would ask for an upper bound. Here we ask for both upper and lower bounds.

Class Time and Place: Tu-Th 11-12:15, CSI 2107

EXCEPTIONS TO ALL RULES BELOW: Serious illness (Doctors' Note) or Religious holidays may override any of the rules below.

POINT DISTRIBUTION: There will be (roughly) weekly HW (15% total), two small Prog projects (10% each), 1 midterm (30%), 1 final (30%), and one visit to my office to talk about CS (5%). There will be an optional project that will only be used to bump your grade from an F to a D- or from a D to a C-.

HW: HW will be DUE on Tues (at the end of class); however, you can hand it in two days later on Thur (at the end of class- no later since I intend to post solutions after class) without penalty. I regard this as having given you a 2-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 Tue to Thur. Since I already gave you a two-day extension any other extension is unlikely. NOTE- you can lose points for sloppiness.

MIDTERM: March 30 IN CLASS. (This is changed from earlier.) If you cannot make this tell me by *Feb 10, 2017* in which case we will arrange a makeup. IF YOU DO NOT CONTACT ME BY FEB 10 YOU MIGHT NOT GET A MAKEUP!!!! NOTE- you can lose points for sloppiness. If you miss the midterm for a legitimate unforeseeable excuse contact me ASAP.

FINAL: The final is officially scheduled for Saturday May 13, 8:00AM-10:00AM. We will discuss this. NOTE- you can lose points for sloppiness. If you miss the final for a legitimate unforeseeable excuse contact me ASAP.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: For HW, Midterm, Final you must hand in your own work- academic dishonesty will be dealt with harshly.

OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION: Prof Gasarch, AVW 3245, 405-2698, gasarch@cs.umd.edu. OH: M 11-12:00, Tu-Th 12:30-2:00. Usually around Tu-Th 3:30-5:00 as well. TA is Joshua Brulé, his OH: M 12-2 AVW 4103. We also use Piazza.

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 Dec you will be asked to fill out course evals. I will urge you to fill it out carefully.

TEXT: Notes on line. RECOMMEND STRONGLY to buy USED copy of **Intro to Theory of Computation** by Sipser

PREREQUISITES: CMSC 351 or Permission of the instructor.

LAPTOP POLICY: Laptops not allowed in class unless you are taking notes with it.