

# CMSC 474: Introduction to Computational Game Theory

Tue-Thu, 3:30 PM-4:45 PM, CSI, Room# 2107 Spring 2015

## Course Agenda

**Instructor:** Mohammad T. Hajiaghayi  
**TA(s):** Sina Dehghani AND Reza Khani

Jan 27, 2015

### 1 Overview

This document details the administrative portion of the lecture from the first day of class. Particularly, this document describes the handouts provided, and the discussions about grading, homeworks, exams, quizzes, programming assignments, and communication.

### 2 Needed Background

Minimum grade of C+ in CMSC351 is strongly recommended. If you are unsure of whether you have sufficient background for this course or not, please contact the instructor in the first week of the class or before.

### 3 General Information

- Course website: <http://www.cs.umd.edu/~hajiagha/474GT15/GT15.html>.
- Instructor's website: <http://www.cs.umd.edu/~hajiagha/>.
- Piazza page at <https://piazza.com/umd>
- Times and Physical Locations: Tue-Thu, 3:30 PM-4:45 PM CSI, Room# 2107
- Mid-Term Exam: March 12, 2015, 3:30pm-4:55pm, in the class.
- Final Exam: time and place to be determined by the University
- Office Hours (Instructor): Thu 12:00PM-1:30PM and Fri 3:00PM-4:00PM at A.V. Williams Bldg., Room 3249, or in some special cases by appointment via e-mail.
- TA Office Hours of Sina Dehghani: Mon 12:00PM-1:30PM at A.V. Williams Bldg., Room AVW 4103
- TA Office Hours of Reza Khani: Wed 1:00PM-2:30PM at A.V. Williams Bldg., Room AVW 4103
- Recitation Hours: Thu 4:45PM-5:20PM at CSI, Room# 2107 (Just after the class in the same class)

## 4 References

Though the following books can be used as the main references for this course, everything covered in class will not be in these references, and vice-versa.

- Leyton-Brown, *Essentials of Game Theory: A Concise, Multidisciplinary Introduction*. Morgan and Claypool Publishers, 2008.
- Nisan, Roughgarden, Tardos, and Vazirani, *Algorithmic Game Theory*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007.

## 5 Honor code

We take the Code of Academic Integrity and the University of Maryland Student Honor Pledge (“I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment/examination”) very seriously. For details, see Code and Pledge. Our policy is that “authorized” assistance includes talking together about assignments and approaches to them, but \*not\* writing up with assistance or collaboration on—or with access to another’s—actual final materials to hand in.

Also note that posting project/assignment/homework solutions publicly (e.g., in a public online location) is a violation of your academic integrity policy.

## 6 DSS-related request

Any student eligible for and requesting reasonable academic accommodations due to a disability is requested to provide, to the instructor in the class or in office hours, a letter of accommodation from the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) within the FIRST TWO WEEKS OF THE SEMESTER.

## 7 Laptop policy

Please note that **LAPTOPS ARE NOT ALLOWED** in the class unless you want to take notes. In this case, you need to talk with the instructor after the class for a special permission AS WELL AS sending an email to hajiagha@cs.umd.edu for the special permission. You also need to send your notes just after each class that you bring the laptop to the class to hajiaghayi@yahoo.com with subject line “**cmisc474 laptop notes**” (all lowercase) and then **your UID, date, and title** of the notes.

## 8 Requirements

Grading for this course can be broken down into the following categories (see details in later sections):

5-min meeting with Professor during office-hours:	6%
Four homework assignments:	20% (+4% bonus) (each 5% (+1% bonus))
Three programming assignments:	12% (each 4%)
Two quizzes:	2% for one quiz (+ 2% bonus for taking both quizzes)
Exams:	<b>max of</b> (a) midterm count for 25% together with the final for 35%, and (b) the final exam grade for 60%

Note that based on above information you can earn up to 6% bonus on top of 100% requirement scores.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** For any letter grade (including plus/minus) that you get for any parts above you may find the equivalent numeric grade (out of 4) from the most recent 2011 University of Maryland Marking System and Quality Points for Letter Grades at

<http://www.testudo.umd.edu/plusminusimplementation.html>, and in particular A+:4.0; A:4.0; A-:3.7; B+:3.3; B: 3.0; B-:2.7; C+:2.3; C:2; C-:1.7; D+:1.3; D:1.0; D-:0.7; F:0.

## 9 5-Min meeting with Professor

Each student is supposed to meet with the professor during office-hours for at least 5 minutes to discuss generally about the course and class materials for 6% requirement. This particular meeting should happen AFTER THE 10TH SESSION of the class such that students have better knowledge about the course. **IMPORTANT REQUIREMENT**: For this particular meeting the student should SEND AN EMAIL with the subject line “**required meeting**” to the instructor at least THE DAY BEFORE THE OFFICE-HOUR such that his name will be recorded for the grade and lots of appointments for the same day is avoided.

## 10 Homeworks

Homework assignments will be found on the webpage of the course. Four homeworks are given during the semester and they are due the week after in the class. FOUR questions of each homework will be graded (at random) for the 5% requirement. You will get 1% bonus if you try all problems. Homeworks are due AT THE START OF CLASS on the day indicated, and LATE OR MAKEUP HOMEWORKS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!!! especially since we POST SOLUTIONS ONLINE just after the deadline. Graded homeworks will be available for pickup at TA office hours. Any question regarding assignments should be sent to hajiagha@cs.umd.edu and CC'D to Reza Khani khani87@gmail.com with the subject line “cmisc474 homework” (all lowercase) and then the **question number**.

## 11 Programming assignments

Programming assignments will be found on the webpage of the course. We give THREE game theory problems for 12% requirement (4% each). The first assignment is an individual assignment but the second and the third assignments are team-work assignments (each team has 3 persons UNLESS coordinated otherwise with the instructor). More details about these programming assignments can be found on the webpage of the course. Any question regarding programming assignments should be sent to hajiagha@cs.umd.edu and CC'D to Sina Dehghani sina.dehghani@gmail.com with the subject line “cmisc474 programming assignment” (all lowercase).

## 12 Exams and quizzes

There will be one midterm exam and one final exam. If you miss the midterm exam, it will be DROPPED from your grade. THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP EXAMS. Exams will be based on what is covered in class. If you learn what is covered in the class notes, assignments, and you understand the theory, you should be okay for the exam preparation. We will have a REVIEW SESSION for mid-term on March 10, 2015 in the class. There would be two quizzes each 20-30 mins in the class as well. The dates are NOT ANNOUNCED intentionally to check your class attendance. If you are present in one of the quizzes you can satisfy 2% requirement for the class. If you are present in both quizzes, you can earn up to 2% bonus.

## 13 Communication

An email was sent out to everyone who registered for the course. The instructor's email address is: hajiagha@cs.umd.edu and the TA's email addresses are sina.dehghani@gmail.com and khani87@gmail.com. Please add the following to the subject line when sending an email to the instructor or TAs:

- “**cmisc474**” (all lowercase) for course related emails.
- “**laptop**” (all lowercase) for laptop related email.

- “**exam**” (all lowercase) for exam related emails.
- “**homework**” (all lowercase) for assignment related emails.
- “**programming assignment**” (all lowercase) for programming assignment related emails.

Also, feel free to send the instructor an email with any suggestions you have for the class with the subject line “**suggestion**”.