CMSC 858F: Network Design Foundation
Fall 2011
Course Agenda

Instructor: Mohammad T. Hajiaghayi

Sep 07, 2011

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, scribe notes, exam, paper presentation, project, and communication.

2 General Information

- Course Website: http://www.cs.umd.edu/ hajiagha/NetDsgn11/courseNetworkDesign.html.

- Times and Physical Locations: Wednesdays, from 1:00 PM-1:55 PM at A.V. Williams, Room# 3258 (then two hours break), and Wednesdays, from 4:00 PM-5:35 PM at CSI Building, Room# 3118

- Office Hours: The hour after class (confirm it in the class though), or by appointment via e-mail.

3 References

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

- V. Vazirani, *Approximation Algorithms*. Berlin: Springer, 2001.

- Nisan, Roughgarden, Tardos, and Vazirani, *Algorithmic Game Theory*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007.

- Slides and notes from "Approximation Algorithms: The Last Decade and the Next Workshop, June 2011 "http://intractability.princeton.edu/blog/2010/07/workshop-approximation-algorithms-the-last-decade-and-the-next/

- Notes from the webpage of a similar course taught by the same instructor http://www.mit.edu/ hajiagha/courseNetworkDesign.html

4 Requirements

Grading for this course can be broken down into the following categories:

Three Homework Assignments:	15%
Class Discussions:	10%
Scribe Notes:	10%
Exam:	20%
Presentation:	15%
Project:	30%

However a strong project can easily help other sections of your grade as a bonus.

5 Homework

Three homeworks are given during the semester and they are due the week after in the class.

6 Scribing Instructions

Each lecture will be scribed, and these will be posted onto the course website. Scribes need to send their work before Tuesday of the next week of the lecture date. Since there are more students than the number of days this class will be held, not all students will be able to take on the role of a scribe. In lieu of becoming a scribe, some students will be assigned other tasks. Scribes, please coordinate with vliaghat@umd.edu and the instructor. Name your files as "scribe-dd-mm-yyyy", e.g. for Sept 1, 2010, use "scribe-01-09-2010".

7 Exam

The exam 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.

8 Paper and Project

You are to present a published paper specific to what we cover in this course. It is encouraged for the presented paper to be linked to the topic you are researching for your project, though this is not mandatory. Projects may be done in groups of two or three, though exceptions can be made. Please start working on the project early, and email hajiagha@cs.umd.edu, who will coordinate projects. The presentation itself should be an hour long: half the time should be spent presenting the topic, and the remaining half should be used to present your project. The project paper to be submitted should be 20 pages in length: The first six pages should be a nice lecture notes of your paper presentation; and the remaining 14 pages should contain a general background about the topic you are researching and details of your new findings. A strong project can easily help other sections of your grade as well.

9 Communication

An email was sent out to everyone who registered for the course. The instructor's email address is: hajiagha@cs.umd.edu. Please add the following to the subject line when emailing the instructor:

- "cmsc858f" or "cs858" (all lowercase) for course related emails.

- "scribe" (all lowercase) for scribe related emails.

- "project" (all lowercase) for project related emails.

Also, feel free send the instructor an email with any suggestions you have for the class.