

CMSC 351: Introduction to Algorithms  
Tue-Thu, 3:30 PM-4:45 PM, CSI, Room# 1115  
Spring 2012  
Course Agenda

**Instructor:** Mohammad T. Hajiaghayi  
**TAs:** Anu Bandi, Ioana Bercea, Rajesh Chitnis, Vahid Liaghat  
(each with a **half-TA** appointment)

Jan 26, 2012

## 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, exams, quizzes, programming assignments, and communication.

## 2 General Information

- Course website: <http://www.cs.umd.edu/~vliaghat/2012cmcs351/>.
- Instructor's website: <http://www.cs.umd.edu/~hajiagha/>.
- Times and Physical Locations: Tue-Thu, 3:30 PM-4:45 PM CSI, Room# 1115 (**Exception on Feb 16, 2012: Due to Career Fair for one session the class will be in the Kim Engineering Building in room 1110**)
- Mid-Term Exam 1 on March 1 (in the class)
- Mid-Term Exam 2 on April 10 (in the class)
- Final Exam: time and place to be determined by the University
- Office Hours (Instructor): Thu 12:00PM-1:00PM at A.V. Williams Bldg., Room 3249, or preferably by appointment via e-mail.

- TA Office Hours (Anu Bandi): Mon 4:00PM-5:30PM at A.V. Williams Bldg., Room 1112
- TA Office Hours (Ioana Bercea): Wed 12:30PM-2:00PM at A.V. Williams Bldg., Room 1112
- TA Office Hours (Konstantinos Zampogiannis): Tue 12:00PM-1:30PM at A.V. Williams Bldg., Room 1112

### 3 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.

- U. Manber, *Introduction to Algorithms: A Creative Approach*. Addison-Wesley, 1989.
- J. Kleinberg, E. Tardos, *Algorithm Design*. Addison-Wesley, 2005.

### 4 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.

### 5 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 haji-[agma@cs.umd.edu](mailto:haji-agma@cs.umd.edu) for the special permission and send your notes just after the class each day that you bring the laptop to the class to [hajiaghayi@yahoo.com](mailto:hajiaghayi@yahoo.com) with subject line “**cmssc351 laptop notes**” (all lowercase) and then **your UID, date, and title** of the notes.

### 6 Requirements

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

Five homework assignments:	20% requirement and 5% bonus (each 4% requirement with 1% bonus)
Programming assignments:	3% requirement and 3% bonus
Scribe notes mistakes:	1% bonus
Quizzes:	2% requirement and 2% bonus
Exams:	<b>max of</b> (a) both midterms count (for 22.5% each) together with the final for 30%, or (b) only the higher midterm grade counts (for 25%) together with the final exam grade for 50%

Note that based on above information you can earn up to 11% bonus on top of 100% requirement scores.

## 7 Homework assignments

Five 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 4% requirement. You will get 1% bonus if you try all problems. Homework assignments will be found on the web. Homeworks are due AT THE START OF CLASS on the day indicated, and LATE OR MAKEUP HOMEWORKS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!!! 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 Vahid Liaghat vliaghat@gmail.com with the subject line "cmssc351 assignment" (all lowercase) and then the **question number**.

## 8 Programming assignments

We give two problems before the Spring break for 3% requirements and two more problems after the Spring break for 3% bonus. We grade the programming assignments approximately two weeks before the final (you will have an option of one re-try the week before the final exam that we grade again). Any question regarding programming assignments should be sent to hajiagha@cs.umd.edu and CC'D to Vahid Liaghat vliaghat@gmail.com with the subject line "cmssc351 programming assignment" (all lowercase) and then the **problem number**.

## 9 Scribe notes

Each lecture is scribed and will be posted onto the course website. Each person can earn an extra 1% bonus on his final grade based on 15 points for mentioning possible mistakes (or missing parts) in the scribe notes (one point for each mistake). Though you can send typos in the scribe notes, but you may not

earn any points. Also you may not earn the point, if somebody mentioned the same mistake before you. This is merely for improving the quality of the scribe notes. Each mistake should be sent to [rajeshchitnis@gmail.com](mailto:rajeshchitnis@gmail.com) with subject line “**cmisc351 scribe**” (all lowercase) and then **your UID, number, date** and **title** of the scribe notes. In the body of the e-mail you should explain the mistake clearly.

## 10 Exams

There will be two midterms exams and a final exam. If you miss a 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 try to organize a **discussion session** just before each exam (we decide the time which works for the most number of students in the class). There would be two quizzes each 20 mins in the class. 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.

## 11 Communication

An email was sent out to everyone who registered for the course. The instructor’s email address is: [hajiagha@cs.umd.edu](mailto:hajiagha@cs.umd.edu) and TA’s email addresses are [ultimateanu@gmail.com](mailto:ultimateanu@gmail.com) (Anu Bandi), [ioana.bercea@gmail.com](mailto:ioana.bercea@gmail.com) (Ioana Bercea), [rajeshchitnis@gmail.com](mailto:rajeshchitnis@gmail.com) (Rajesh Chitnis), and [vliaghat@gmail.com](mailto:vliaghat@gmail.com) (Vahid Liaghat). Please add the following to the subject line when sending an email to the instructor or TAs:

- “cmisc351” (all lowercase) for course related emails.
- “scribe” (all lowercase) for scribe related emails.
- “laptop” (all lowercase) for laptop related email.
- “exam” (all lowercase) for exam related emails.
- “assignment” (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”.