

CMSC 351: Introduction to Algorithms

Fall 2014

Course Agenda

Instructor: Hamid Mahini
TAs: Melika Abolhassani, Milad Gholami,
Jeffrey Wang, Zikai Wen, Rizeng Zheng

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, homework assignments, scribe notes, exams, quizzes, programming assignments, and communication.

2 General Information

- Course website: <http://www.cs.umd.edu/class/fall2014/cmsc351/>.
- Instructor's website: <http://www.cs.umd.edu/~hmahini/>.
- Times and Physical Locations:
 - Section 1: MWF, 10AM - 10:50AM, CSI 3117
 - Section 2: MWF, 11AM - 11:50AM, CSI 3117
 - Section 3: MWF, 3PM - 3:50PM, CSI 2117
- Mid-Term Exam: October 20, 7PM - 9PM, TYD 0130.
- Final Exam: time and place to be determined by the University
- Office Hours:

Hamid Mahini	Wed 4PM - 6PM	AVW 3267
Melika Abolhassani	Thu 9AM - 11AM	AVW 1112
Milad Gholami	Thu 2PM - 4PM	AVW 1112
Jeffrey Wang	Fri 12PM - 2PM	AVW 1112
Zikai Wen	Tue 11AM - 1PM	AVW 1112
Rizeng Zheng	Mon-Fri 4PM - 6PM	AVW 1112

- Emails:

Hamid Mahini	hmahini@cs.umd.edu
Melika Abolhassani	melika.abolhasani@gmail.com
Milad Gholami	mgholami@cs.umd.edu
Jeffrey Wang	jxwang@umd.edu
Zikai Wen	zkwen@cs.umd.edu
Rizeng Zheng	rizeng.zheng@gmail.com

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.

- Thomas H. Cormen, Clifford Stein, Ronald L. Rivest, Charles E. Leiserson, *Introduction to Algorithms, Third Edition*. The MIT Press, 2009.
- U. Manber, *Introduction to Algorithms: A Creative Approach*. Addison-Wesley, 1989.

4 Attendance policy

This course follows the University's attendance policy. In short, if you will miss class for any reason you should let me know in advance, unless this is not possible (e.g. sudden illness). In any case, please let me know as soon as you are aware that will not be able to attend a class (e-mail is fine).

5 Academic integrity

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.

6 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 for a special permission as well as sending an email to hmahini@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 hmahini@cs.umd.edu with subject line "**cm351 laptop notes**" (all lowercase) and then **your UID**, **date**, and **title** of the notes.

7 Accommodation

- If you are eligible for requesting reasonable academic accommodations due to a disability, please provide me a letter of accommodation from the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) within the first **two** weeks of the semester.
- We accommodate students of any faith on an individual basis. Please provide me a list of all holidays you observe during the semester within the first **two** weeks of the semester.

8 Requirements

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

	Tentative weights
Homework assignments	20% requirement and 5% bonus
Programming assignments	5% requirement and 4% bonus
Midterm exam	30%
Final exam	45%

Note that based on above information you can earn up to 9% bonus on top of 100% requirement scores.

9 Homework Assignments

Six homework assignments are given during the semester and they are due the week after in the class. Four questions of each homework assignment will be graded (at random). You will get an extra bonus if you try all problems. Homework assignments are **due at the start of class** on the day indicated, and late or makeup homework will not be accepted. However, the lowest homework grade will be dropped. Graded homework will be available for pickup at TA office hours.

Homework assignments must either be neatly written or typeset. Poorly written work will not be graded. When writing algorithms be sure not only that your solution is correct, but also that it is easy for the grader to understand why your solution is correct. Part of your grade will be based not only on correctness, but also on the clarity, simplicity, and elegance of your solution.

Any question regarding homework assignments should be sent to hmahini@cs.umd.edu and CC'D to melika.abolhasani@gmail.com (Melika Abolhassani) with the subject line "cmisc351 homework" (all lowercase) and then the homework number and the question number.

10 Programming assignments

We give three problems before the Spring break and three more problems after the Spring break. Note that posting project solutions in a public online location is a violation of your academic integrity policy. Any question regarding programming assignments should be sent to hmahini@cs.umd.edu and CC'D to milad621@gmail.com (Milad Gholami) with the subject line "cmssc351 programming assignment" (all lowercase) and then the assignment number and the problem number.

11 Exams

There will be a midterm exam and a final exam. 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. There will be no makeup exams. In exceptional circumstances (illness, university business, religious observances) extensions may be granted. However, all extensions must be approved by me before the due date.

12 Communication

Please add the following to the subject line when sending an email to the instructor or TAs:

- "cmssc351" (all lowercase) for course related emails.
- "cmssc351 attendance" (all lowercase) for attendance related emails.
- "cmssc351 scribe" (all lowercase) for scribe related emails.
- "cmssc351 laptop" (all lowercase) for laptop related emails.
- "cmssc351 exam" (all lowercase) for exam related emails.
- "cmssc351 homework" (all lowercase) for homework related emails.
- "cmssc351 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 "cmssc351 suggestion".