

1 Prerequisites and description, and some general information

This course is 4 credits. Its prerequisites is a C– or better in CMSC 131, or a score of 5 on the Java A AP exam, or passing the CMSC department’s placement exam.

CMSC 132 is an introductory course in fundamental data structures (lists, trees, heaps, hashing, graphs, etc.; see the topic list in [Section 3](#) below) and their efficiency. Inheritance, concurrency, and design/implementation of problem solutions using object–oriented methods are also emphasized. Programming is done in Java. It is the second part of a two–semester course sequence that is required for computer science and computer engineering majors.

In addition to the policies in this syllabus, many important University policies apply to students. These are summarized at www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html. Any student who has not read that information before should take the time to read through it.

The campus Counseling Center has several free drop–in Zoom workshops having to do with various topics regarding academic success (such as study skills, time management, coping with stress, addressing procrastination, etc.) as well as other workshops about common issues of concern to college students. Some of these might be helpful to you. See the list of workshops and topics at www.counseling.umd.edu/workshops.

2 Course materials and textbook

Course materials will be provided via [ELMS](#), the University’s learning management system. Registered students (and the top five students on each section’s waitlist during the drop/add period) will automatically get access to ELMS for the course. Essential announcements that students are responsible for reading will be made on the main ELMS page, called the “**News feed**”. Be sure to check every day for new announcements in the **News feed**.

The recommended (not required) textbook is *Data Structures and Algorithms in Java, 6th Edition*, Goodrich, Tamassia, & Goldwasser, Wiley, January 2014, ISBN 978–1–118–77133–4. A digital edition (ISBN 978–1–118–80314–1), with the same content but cheaper, is available via the book link next to your section in the Schedule of Classes. McKeldin Library has copies of the text, which you can check out and read for 4 hours at a time by asking at the Library Services Desk. Please do not use an illegal copy of the textbook; read the free ones in the library instead.

For a few topics (either ones that are largely review of CMSC 131, or that are not covered in the textbook and are topics that are important but not as interesting to explain in class), I will be providing explanatory handouts to read on your own, instead of my lecturing on them.

3 Course topics

The duration and order of topics may vary according to the pace of lecture, so this list is approximate. A few topics not listed here will be covered only in discussion section, and as mentioned above, a few of these topics will be covered in part via handouts.

Topic	# lectures
Course introduction, review of some CMSC 131 Java concepts (Ch. 1)	2 1/2
Inheritance and object–oriented design (Sec. 2.1 & 2.2)	1 1/2
Abstract classes (Sec. 2.3)	3/4
Error handling & exceptions (Sec. 2.4)	1 1/2
Generics (Sec. 2.5)	1 1/2
Inner classes (Sec. 2.6)	1
Linear data structures (Ch. 3)	3 1/2
Algorithm analysis I (Ch. 4)	2 1/2
Recursion (Ch. 5)	2 1/2
Stacks and queues (Ch. 6)	1 1/4

Topic	# lectures
Iterators and Java collections (Ch. 7)	1
Trees and binary search trees (Ch. 8 & Sec. 11.1)	3 1/4
Heaps and priority queues (Ch. 9)	1 1/4
Hashing, sets, and maps (Ch. 10, except Section 10.4)	3 1/4
Graphs (Ch. 14)	2 3/4
Concurrency and threads	3 3/4
Sorting (Ch. 12, except Section 12.5)	2 3/4
Algorithm analysis II	1/2
Algorithm strategies	1

4 The instructional staff, contacting us, office hours, course evaluations

4.1 The instructional staff

4.1.1 Instructor

	Larry Herman
Office:	1124 Iribe
Office hours:	• Mon 3:15–5:15 • Tue 10:30–11:30 & 3:15–4:45 (Tuesday office hours Zoom only unless specified otherwise in a given week) • Fri 10:30–11:30

4.1.2 TAs

Teaching TAs

section(s)	TA
0101	Benjamin Everson
0102 & 0201	Daniel Palamarchuk
0103	Daria Vucea
0104	Ananya Srinivasan
0202	Sailesh Kamalahasan
0203 & 0205	Ryan Himes
0204	Samuel Murphy

Grading TAs

Amir Hossein Zadeh
Donghwa Kang
Harshita Sudhakar
Luke Tan
Reetika Banerjee

4.2 Office hours and email

An office hours handout will be provided separately soon. While assistance for projects is available from the TAs during office hours, you are ultimately responsible for developing and debugging them yourself; learning these skills is part of the coursework you're being graded for. If you come to office hours for help with program debugging, the TAs will often point you in the right direction, after which it would be up to you to continue working on the problem on your own.

The CMSC department and the University provide free tutoring for many CMSC courses. Information about tutoring will be provided in the **News feed** soon.

Due to the class size the TAs and I will be able to address questions and concerns verbally during office hours, or during, before, or after lecture and discussion section (as time permits), so discuss things with us these ways instead of sending ELMS messages or email. Explaining course material, discussing administrative issues, and assisting with programming projects are things we are only able to do verbally.

Even for the very few issues that must be discussed electronically– typically if we contact you electronically first– we will **only** use the ELMS message system (click on *Inbox* in ELMS), **not** regular University email/Terpmail. Due to the class size we may read messages only every week or so. (An issue that takes an exchange of several messages to answer or resolve would be much faster to discuss verbally.)

4.3 Course evaluations and feedback

Course evaluations are important, and the department and instructors take student feedback seriously. Please complete your evaluation at the end of the semester at www.courseevalum.umd.edu. However, rather than waiting until the end of the course to give feedback, please bring any suggestions or concerns to our attention verbally during the semester. Although we cannot guarantee to be able to change anything that is brought up, we welcome hearing any comments or questions, that you may have, and will see if they can be addressed.

5 Class, absences and excused absences, and accommodations

Class locations and times are available in the [Schedule of Classes](#). Students are responsible for all course and administrative material discussed in lecture and discussion, whether they were in class to hear it or not. Other than cases of excused absences as discussed below or University cancellations, students should attend all lectures and discussions.

Electronic devices (laptops, tablets, cell phones, etc.) may not be used in lecture, and student recordings of lecture may not be made.

On a regular basis students are **only** allowed to attend the lecture and discussion section they are registered for. (This is partly to avoid overcrowding in some sections.) In-class graded coursework may not receive credit if it is done in a different lecture or discussion section than the one you are registered for. If you have a convincing reason to request permission to regularly attend a different lecture or discussion section than the one you are registered for you may discuss the situation with me (verbally during office hours), however, such situations usually can't be accommodated.

If you **occasionally** cannot attend your own lecture or discussion you can attend a different one, but this does not mean you can attend a different one on a regular basis or that you will necessarily receive credit for in-class coursework done during a different class (see more below).

Because the University is scheduled to be in session on Wednesday–Friday of the week of fall break (October 14–16) and on Monday and Tuesday of the week of Thanksgiving break (November 23 and 24) there will be discussion sections and lectures during those days, and there could be graded coursework in class. Students are responsible for what will be covered in class and for meeting any deadlines during these days, so keep this in mind when making break plans. Note that missing class to return from break late or leave for break early is not a University–approved reason for an absence to be excused, so the policies on excused absences below would not apply in any such cases.

5.1 What to do if you will be missing class (lecture or discussion)

Please do not send me (or your TA) a message/email about any absences. The size of the course makes it impossible to keep track of most absences this way. Report any absences as explained below.

The term “excused absence” used below refers to missing class– lecture or discussion section– for a University–approved reason, which would not affect a student’s grade.

University policy requires that students inform instructors about absences **in advance** for them to be excused (see below for how to report an absence), or **as soon as possible** if the nature of the absence makes advance notification **impossible**. Where reporting an absence in advance is mentioned below it refers to reporting the absence (using the mechanism described below) **prior to the beginning of the first class session that you will be missing, or as early as possible** if advance notification is not possible, due to the nature of the absence.

Instead of using ELMS messages/email to report an absence, use the [Report an absence](#) system reachable from ELMS, and read the information there carefully (as well as [Section 5.2](#) below). As above you must report an absence **in advance** (which is defined above) for it to be excused.

If, as mentioned above, a **few times** during the semester you aren’t able to attend your own lecture or discussion but can go to a different one you should do that, to avoid missing essential material. (Please do **not** send ELMS messages/email asking permission to do this; just show up, after reporting the situation using the [Report an absence](#) system.) However, see below about whether you can get credit for graded coursework done in a different class.

Before or after any absence please **do not** send a message to me or your TA to find out what the missed class covers, as the course size and number of students who miss class makes it infeasible for us to fill them in individually. Instead you would be responsible for finding out what was missed by getting notes from a classmate who was present.

5.2 Excused absences

The University’s course–related policies for excused absences and other situations are summarized at the link above, which is www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html. **Most policies there are not repeated here, so read that information carefully.** Here I only emphasize a few points from that page and define necessary specifics for this course.

- **Advance notification** (as defined above) is required for an absence to be excused.
- Of course an absence has to be for a University–approved reason to be excused. The course–related policies linked to above describe the University–approved reasons for excused absences.
- For this course, any documentation provided to support an excused absence (as described in the policy) **must be submitted via the [Report an absence](#) system**. (Please do **not** send documentation via messages/email.) Medical documentation must specify dates of illness or inability to attend class.

The University’s template for self–signed notes (for absences that they can be used for) is [here](#).

- Self–documentation of illness (a self–signed note) can be used **for one absence during the semester where you miss graded coursework that is not a major scheduled grading event** (this term is defined in the course–related policies linked to above). You may use a self–signed note as many times as needed for absences where you did not miss any graded coursework (as long as the information you are attesting to is accurate, of course).
- The major scheduled grading events will be the midterm exams and the final exam. A self–signed note can **not** be used for absences affecting these; you must have documentation other than a self–signed note for such absences.

5.3 How excused absences will be handled

If you think that it is necessary to discuss missed coursework due to absences verbally (beyond just reporting the absence via the [Report an absence](#) system), or if you get a reply to an absence report in the **Report an absence** system that says that you need to discuss the absence verbally, then it must be discussed with me, verbally in my office hours, even if the coursework that was missed was done in discussion section. (In other words, the TAs cannot make arrangements or allowances for absences.)

- An excused absence for an exam will be handled by giving a makeup exam. The makeup exam must be taken as soon as is possible, of course taking the cause of the absence into account.
- There will not be makeup worksheets; instead, the score for an excused absence for a graded worksheet will be the average of your scores for the other graded worksheets (just like dropping that worksheet).
 - **Once in the semester** you can do a graded worksheet in a different lecture or discussion section (on the same day) without needing a reason, if you are unable to attend your own class that day **and** you report the absence in advance (as defined above) using the [Report an absence](#) system mentioned above.
 - If you have done already a graded worksheet in a different class without a reason, to get credit for other missed ones the reason must be University-approved (e.g., illness, accident, emergency, etc.), it must have been reported **in advance** (as defined above), and in most cases there should be documentation of the situation.
- Note that excused absences are **almost never justification for extensions on projects**. Projects will be assigned with sufficient time to be completed by students who have a reasonable understanding of the necessary material and begin promptly, even if an absence occurs. In cases of **protracted, extremely serious major illness, or severe emergency situations, which affect the majority of time that a project was assigned, a short** extension on the project may be considered, depending upon the circumstances. Report the situation as soon as possible using the [Report an absence](#) system (you will likely be asked to discuss the situation with me verbally afterwards as well).

5.4 Students with disabilities

A student with academic accommodations due to disability must provide documentation from ADS (Accessibility and Disability Support Services) to their instructor **near the beginning of the semester** (or as soon as they receive accommodations if it occurs during the semester). According to ADS we are expected to discuss accommodations privately and in detail, so it must be done verbally in my office hours, not after class and not via ELMS messages/email. Accommodations cannot be given retroactively, so you must provide documentation and discuss your accommodations **more than a week prior to** any coursework where an accommodation may apply to be eligible to receive it.

6 Coursework, grades, and dates

6.1 Weights of coursework

Coursework will count toward the final grade according to the following percentages:

Midterms:	three midterms (weighted 52%: 16%, 18%, and 18%)
Final (comprehensive)	20%
Programming projects (ten expected projects)	13% (weighted differently; see ELMS)
In-class (discussion or lecture) worksheets	12% (equally weighted)
Class participation	3% (information will be provided in class)

Besides the graded coursework, ungraded practice problems will be provided as in-class worksheets, and as homework and exam practice problems (with solutions) via ELMS. These problems will allow you to test your knowledge of the material and prepare for graded coursework. If you have questions about these problems or need help solving them, ask during office hours. Some of the in-class worksheets will be graded; these will not be announced in advance, and will be pair exercises.

6.2 Project policies and minimum project requirements

Projects will be written in the Eclipse IDE on your own computer. The first project will describe how to install and set up Eclipse.

A handout with the project submission and grading policies will be provided when the first project is assigned. Projects will all be worth 100 points, but they will be weighted differently based on difficulty. Some projects will be

larger and more difficult, and will have more time to be done in. Others will be smaller and easier, and less time will be given for them. In order to be eligible to pass the course, a student **must** submit versions of all projects that satisfy minimum criteria, as the project policies handout will explain.

6.3 Grading and grades

Grades will be recorded on ELMS. There will be more worksheets in the gradebook than we will actually end up having; unused worksheet entries in the gradebook will just be deleted as they turn out not to be needed.

If you think something may have been graded incorrectly on an exam you may give a written explanation (procedures will be provided after the first exam) **within a week** of when the exam is returned and solutions are provided. Questions about a graded project should be directed to the TA who graded it (**not** me or your teaching TA); their name will appear in the graded project. Questions about graded in-class worksheets should be directed to me in office hours.

Ask questions or discuss concerns about any grades verbally. Do not make comments on coursework or grades in the ELMS gradebook; due to the size of the course and the design of ELMS they will not be read.

Final course grades will be curved as needed, based on each student's total numeric score for all coursework at the end of the semester. (In other words, individual assignments or exams will not be curved; just the final course grades.) It is expected that plus/minus grades will be given, although the distribution of grades and performance of students will dictate what the curve will look like (or even if there is one), how many grades in each range there will be, etc.; these are things that cannot be predicted in advance.

6.4 Exam and project dates

Midterm exams will be given on the dates below in your **own lecture**. If you have a reason to take a midterm on the same day but in my other lecture then discuss it with me during office hours in advance. If you have a conflict with a scheduled exam day due to a reason covered by University policy report it using the [Report an absence](#) system as early as possible. The dates below could vary depending on class progress or other factors. **Put these dates in your calendar now:**

Project #1:	Wed, Sep 9
Project #2:	Fri, Sep 18
Project #3:	Tue, Sep 29
Exam #1:	Wed, Oct 14
Project #4:	Wed, Oct 14

Project #5:	Thu, Oct 22
Project #6:	Wed, Oct 28
Exam #2:	Wed, Nov 4
Project #7:	Tue, Nov 10
Project #8:	Tue, Nov 17

Project #9:	Mon, Nov 30
Exam #3:	Wed, Dec 2
Project #10:	Thu, Dec 10
Final exam:	Tue, Dec 15, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Besides cases of excused absence due to University-approved causes, the final exam will be rescheduled **only** for students having another final at exactly the same time (this should only apply to BMGT 221 or ENES 221), or for students with **more than** three final exams on the same day. If either situation applies to you, use the [Report an absence](#) system to inform me **at least two weeks in advance** of the final exam.

7 Mandatory notice of mandatory reporting

As a faculty member I am designated as a “Responsible University Employee,” meaning that I must report any disclosures of sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, or stalking to UMD’s Title IX Coordinator, per the University Policy on Sexual Harassment and Other Sexual Misconduct.

If you wish to speak with someone about issues like these confidentially, please contact one of UMD’s confidential resources, such as [CARE to Stop Violence](#) (on the ground floor of the Health Center) at (301) 741–3442, or the [Counseling Center](#) (in the Shoemaker Building) at (301) 314–7651. (You would have to find someone else to talk with confidentially because, as the previous paragraph says, I am not allowed to speak confidentially about such matters.)

You may also seek assistance or supportive measures from UMD’s Title IX Coordinator by calling (301) 405–1142, or emailing titleIXcoordinator@umd.edu.

Further information on the above is on the Office of Civil Rights and Sexual Misconduct’s site at ocrsm.umd.edu.

8 Academic integrity

Campus policy asks students to include the honor pledge on each examination or major assignment in every course; consequently, you will be requested to write it on exams and type it in projects.

Unless otherwise noted, all graded coursework is to be done **individually**, so cooperation or use of unauthorized materials on assignments is a violation of the University’s Code of Academic Integrity. **Any evidence** of this **will be submitted** to the Office of Student Conduct, which could result in an XF for the course, suspension, or expulsion.

For academic honesty purposes, **programming projects are to be considered comparable to a take-home exam, so any cooperation that would be prohibited on an exam is also prohibited on a project.** Note the following:

- Students are welcome to study together or to receive help from anyone else in learning the course material. It's OK to discuss with others the course material or the **requirements** of a project.
- But when it comes to actually designing, writing, or debugging a project, other than help from the instructional staff, these must **solely and entirely** be a student's **own original, individual work**.

VIOLATIONS OF THE CODE OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY MAY INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

1. Failing to do any of the work on a project by yourself, other than assistance from the instructional staff.
2. Using any ideas or any part of another person's project, or copying anyone else's work in any way.
3. Giving any parts or ideas from your project, including test data or test cases, to anyone else.
4. Transferring any part of a project to or from anyone else, by any means.
5. Putting a project anywhere (for example, a website online) for any other students to access. (Note this also applies to providing project code to future students taking the course in later semesters.)
6. Using any form of AI to produce any part of coursework that will be graded.

You are allowed to use AI to look up information about the course material, for example information about Java or data structures, but not to create any graded coursework. However, since AI is often wrong, or may have correct but inapplicable information, and it is not possible to tell from AI answers whether they are right or wrong unless you already know the information, you are strongly encouraged to ask any questions about the course material in office hours **instead** of trying to use AI for answers.

In designing or writing projects, students are free to use information in the textbook and code provided by the instructional staff, **only** if the source is cited in a comment in the relevant section of the project code, only short sections of provided code are used, and the substantial part of the coursework is the student's own original, individual work. If you have any question about a particular situation or source, ask me in advance.

Should you have difficulty with a project you should see the teaching assistants in office hours, rather than soliciting help from anyone else in violation of these rules.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY, UNDER THE HONOR POLICY, OF ANYONE WHO SUSPECTS ACADEMIC DISHONESTY HAS OCCURRED TO REPORT IT TO THE INSTRUCTOR, OR DIRECTLY TO THE OFFICE OF STUDENT CONDUCT.

You are encouraged to learn more about academic integrity at the Student Honor Council's website, and to read the Code of Academic Integrity, the Code of Student Conduct, and the University's policy regarding acceptable use of information technology resources (including computer accounts) for yourself, using the links on the course's ELMS page.

9 Copyright for materials

Most course materials are copyright Larry Herman (and in some cases other CMSC faculty and instructors not specifically listed due to space limitations) © 2026. All rights reserved for these materials. Students are permitted to use course materials for their own personal use only. Materials may not be distributed publicly or privately to any others (excepting other students currently in the course), in any way or format.

Note that as the course-related policies at <https://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html> say, "Class lectures and other course materials are copyrighted and may not be reproduced for anything other than your personal use without the permission of the course instructor. Course materials are the property of the course instructor - do not sell them, do not post them on a website. Be aware that copyright infringements may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct." (This is under "Copyright and Intellectual Property" on that page.) This also means that you cannot upload any course materials that I created to any AI site.

10 Changes made since the syllabus was originally provided

University policy is that students must be informed of any changes made to the course syllabus after a semester begins. If any changes are made to this syllabus after classes begin they will be added to this section.

Here are the changes made to this syllabus since then:

September 7: My office hours have been added to the syllabus, and the list of TAs and their duties have been added (all to [Section 4.1](#)).