

CMSC 351: Algorithms

Summer 2015

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Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 11:00am–12:00pm

Also by appointment.

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Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday: 11:00am–12:30pm in AVW 1112.

Also by appointment.

Class Time: Monday through Friday: 9:30am–10:55am, CSI 3117

Course Overview: This course presents an introduction to the techniques for designing efficient computer algorithms and analyzing their running times. General topics include asymptotics, solving summations and recurrences, algorithm design techniques, analysis of data structures, and introduction to NP-completeness.

Text: Thomas Cormen, Charles Leiserson, Ron Rivest, and Clifford Stein, *Introduction to Algorithms*, McGraw Hill and MIT Press. Any edition.

Prerequisites: Each student is expected to know the basic concepts of programming (e.g. loops, pointers, recursion), discrete mathematics (proof by induction, sets), simple data structures (lists, stacks, queues, trees), and calculus (logarithms, differentiation, integration).

Course Work: Course work will consist of written homework assignments, and two exams (a midterm and a final). You may discuss homework problems and general solution strategies with classmates, but you must write up the solutions yourself.

As a courtesy to the grader, homeworks are to be written clearly and neatly. 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 simplicity, clarity, and elegance of your solutions.

Piazza: We will be using Piazza (www.piazza.com), a question-and-answer system designed to streamline discussion outside of the classroom. It supports LaTeX, code formatting, embedding of images, and attaching of files. It will be moderated by the TA and instructor, but students are encouraged to answer questions.

Grading: Final grades will be based on the written assignments, a midterm exam, and a final exam. The relative weights of these will be approximately 10% for the homework total, 40% for of the midterm (about late June), and 50% for the final exam (the last day of class).

Syllabus: The following is a *tentative* list of topics and readings in *approximate* order.

1. Introduction, Ch. 1,2
2. Quadratic sorting algorithms
3. Mergesort, Ch. 2
4. Summations, Appendix A
5. Growth of Functions, Ch. 3
6. Recurrences, Ch. 4
7. Heapsort, Ch. 6
8. Quicksort, Ch. 7
9. Sorting in Linear Time, Ch. 8
10. Medians and Order Statistics, Ch. 9
11. Graphs and Trees, Appendix B
12. Dijkstra's algorithm, Ch. 24.3
13. Brief introduction to NP-completeness, Ch. 34