Syllabus (Policy) CMSC 250H: Discrete Math (Honors)

Overview: This course will teach you how to prove theorems and then actually prove theorems.
We cover combinatorics, probability, number theory, induction.

Class Time and Place: Tu-Th 3:30-4:45, CSIC 2107 (NOTE- this is a change, not a typo.
It was originally in IRB 2107. Really! What are the odds of that? We’ll find out when we do
probability! But the key now is CSIC 2107.)

Recitation Time and Place: M-W 5:00-5:50, IRB 2107

EXCEPTIONS TO ALL RULES BELOW: Serious illness (Doctors’ Note) or Religious
holidays my override any of the rules below.

POINT DISTRIBUTION: There will be (roughly) weekly HW (15% total), Honors HW
(see below) (5%), 2 midterm (20% each, so 40%), 1 final (35%), and one visit to my office to
talk about your hopes and dreams (5%).

HW: HW will be DUE on MONDAY (before recitation begins) by Gradescope. however, you
can submit it in two days later on Wednesday (before recitation begins- the TA may want to
discuss the solution in recitation) without penalty. I regard this as having given you a 2-day
extension. So if you are sick (without doctors note) or have a personal crisis or whatever then
you do indeed get an extension from Monday to Wednesday. Since I already gave you a two-day
extension any other extension is unlikely. NOTE- HW must be TYPED. NOTE- you may lose
points if your answer is not well written.

Honors HW: This is an Honors course! This has two effects. (1) sometimes I will, instead of
teaching, have you work in groups on a really interesting problem. When I do this I may assign
a HW related to that problem. There are honors HW. (2) the recitation will go over HW and
do examples like recitations do, on WEDNESDAY There will be a mini-course on probability
on MONDAY. That will involve some light HW, also called honors HW.

MIDTERM: Midterm One is Tuesday Feb 26. Midterm Two is Tuesday April 2. Both
midterms will be in class. If you miss a midterm for a legitimate unforeseeable excuse contact
me ASAP.

FINAL: The final is officially scheduled for Wed May 22, 10:30AM-12:30AM. If you miss the
final for a legitimate unforeseeable excuse contact me ASAP.

On HW, MIDTERM, FINAL: You can lose points for sloppiness.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: For HW, Midterm, Final you must hand in your own work–
academic dishonesty will be dealt with harshly.

OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION: Prof Gasarch, AVW 3245, 405-2698, gasarch@cs.umd.edu. OH: Tu-Th 2:00-3:15. He is Usually around other than that as
well. TAs are Karthik Abinav - his Office hours: FILL IN LATER and Josh Twitty - his Office
hours: FILL IN LATER. We also use Piazza.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Students requesting academic accommodations due to a disability
should make such a request to the instructor in office hours, with a letter of accommodation
from the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) within the first two weeks of the semester.
COURSE EVALUATIONS: In May you will be asked to fill out course evals. I will urge you to fill it out carefully.

TEXT: I will be giving out a FREE copy of Essential Discrete Mathematics for Computer Science by Lewis and Zax. It is in preprint form. The authors want us to give them commentary on it. (Disclosure- Lewis was my PhD advisor.)

PREREQUISITES: CMSC 351 or Permission of the instructor.

LAPTOP POLICY: Laptops not allowed in class unless you are taking notes with it.