

Syllabus (Policy) CMSC 452: Elementary Theory of Computation
Syllabus (Policy) CMSC 452: GREAT IDEAS IN COMPUTER SCIENCE
<http://cs.umd.edu/~gasarch/COURSES/452/S19/S19.html>

Overview: The Theory of Computation is concerned with the following problem: given a set, how hard is it to decide if an element is in it? In a course in algorithms you would ask for an upper bound. Here we ask for both upper and lower bounds.

Class Time and Place: Tu-Th 12:30-1:45, CSI 3117 (NOTE- It was originally in IRB 1116 but this has changed.)

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

POINT DISTRIBUTION: There will be (roughly) weekly HW (15% total), two small Prog projects (10% each, so 20%), 1 midterm (30%), 1 final (30%), and one visit to my office to talk about your hopes and dreams (5%). There will be an optional project that will only be used to bump your grade from an F to a D or from a D to a C-.

HW: HW will be DUE on Tues (before class begins) by Gradescope. However, you can submit it two days later on Thur (before class begins- I may want to discuss the solution in class) 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 Tue to Thur. 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.

MIDTERM: Midterm Tuesday March 12. It will be in class. If you cannot make it you must tell me by Feb 12. If you miss the midterm for a legitimate unforeseeable excuse contact me ASAP.

FINAL: The final is officially scheduled for Tuesday May 21, 1:30PM-3:30PM. If you cannot make it you must tell me by Feb 12. 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. Office hours: Tu and Th 2:00-3:15. He is around a lot more than that as well. TAs are Nathan Grammel (ngrammel@cs.umd.edu) - his Office hours: Wednesday 2:00PM-4:00PM. Justin Hontz (jhontz@terpmail.umd.edu) Monday 2:00-3:00. The TA office hours are in AVW 4103. Also by appointment. AND we 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: Notes on line. RECOMMEND STRONGLY to buy USED copy of **Intro to Theory of Computation** by Sipser

PREREQUISITES: CMSC 351 or Permission of the instructor.

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