Syllabus (Policy) CMSC 452: Elementary Theory of Computation

First Class: Jan 26, 2021, Last Class: May 11, 2021.

Overview: The Theory of Computation is concerned with the following problem: given a set, how hard is it decide if an elements 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 11:00-12:15. Online.
https://umd.zoom.us/my/gasarch

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 (30% total), one small Prog projects (20%), 1 midterm (25%), 1 final (25%), and 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.

REGRDE REQUESTS must be done formally through gradescope. DO NOT talk to a TA or prof directly if your interest is in POINTS- submit a WELL WRITTEN note about WHY we misgraded it. NOTE- if your note shows you know LESS than we thought, or DID NOT READ the solution set to see why we took points off, you may LOSE points. Regrade requests are due within a week of when it was returned.

MIDTERM: Midterm Tuesday March 23. It will be 8:00PM-10:00PM. Open-book, Open-notes, Open-Web. It will be posted on gradescope just like a HW. If you cannot make it you must tell me by Feb 11. If you miss the midterm for a legitimate unforeseeable excuse contact me ASAP.

FINAL: Take Home Final, available on the class website and on gradescope It will be on Thursday May 13, 8:00PM-10:15PM. If you have an issue with this timeslot then you must let me know by April 1, 2021.

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:

See the main page for the zoom links.

Prof Gasarch `gasarch@cs.umd.edu`. Office Hours Tu-Th 12:15-2:00, 3:15-5:00 (301) 503-3157.

TA Saadiq Shaik `saadiqks@gmail.com`. OH: M 10-12.
TA Yaelle `yaelle.goldschlag@gmail.com` . OH Wed 12-1.
TA Eric `eric.shen2000@gmail.com`. OH Wed 4-5.

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 and slides on line.

PREREQUISITES: CMSC 351 or Permission of the instructor.