

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 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 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.

MIDTERM: Midterm Tuesday March 23. It will be at night online, 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 Date TBA.

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 gasarch@cs.umd.edu. Office Hours Tu 12:30-2:00. He is usually around Tu-Th 3:30-5:00 as well. Office hours on zoom:

<https://umd.zoom.us/my/gasarch>

TA Saadiq Shaik saadiqks@gmail.com's office hours: Office hours: Monday 10:00AM-12:00PM. Office hours on zoom:

<https://umd.zoom.us/j/6670074227>

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.