Syllabus (Policy) CMSC 452: Elementary Theory of Computation

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, CSI 2107 (NOTE- NOT IRB)

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 (20% total), one small Prog projects (20%), 1 midterm (30%), 1 final (30%), and We will begin to organize those in groups of at least 4 after the midterm. 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 31. It will be in class. 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 Tu May 12 at 7:00PM, Due Th May 14 7:00PM.
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, IRB 2242, 405-2698, `gasarch@cs.umd.edu`. Office hours: Tu and Th 12:30-3:15. He is around a lot more than that as well. TAs are Saadiq Shaik `saadiqks@gmail.com` and Josh Twitty `jtwitty@terpmail.umd.edu` Saadiq's Office hours: Wed. 10am-12pm Josh's Office hours: Wed. 12pm-1pm Office Hours location: IRB 2207 (open area near the elevator) The course will 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.

PREREQUISITES: CMSC 351 or Permission of the instructor.

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