

CSCI-UA Section 040, Data Structures (Fall 2025)

Instructor Information

- Alan N. Amin
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- **Recitation leader:** Savar Chaturvedi (sc10773@nyu.edu)

Course information

Course hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00-3:15 at CIWW 312

Office hours: Friday 3:30-5:30 at 60 Fifth Ave, Room 360.

Recitation leader office hours: Contact recitation leader

Prerequisites: Passing CSCI-UA.0101 with a grade of C or better.

Testing out of this course: See the [Placement](#) page at the CS department website

Brightspace

Course notes

Textbook: Data Structures and Algorithms in Java by Goodrich, Tamassia, and Goldwasser. Java review: Introduction to Java Programming, Y. Daniel Liang

More general course info

Course overview and topics covered

We will cover a variety of data structures and algorithms to build and manipulate them. The structures we will cover will include linked lists, stacks, queues, trees, binary search trees, AVL trees, heaps, hash tables, and optionally graphs and priority queues. We will cover algorithms to build, search, and sort with these data structures; we will cover efficient sorting algorithms such as merge sort, quick sort, and heap sort. We will also cover general techniques for constructing algorithms, like recursion, and ways to evaluate the efficiency of algorithms using big-oh notation. Finally we will review advanced java topics such as polymorphism, abstract classes, interfaces, generics, and exceptions.

Assessments and grading:

Your percentage grade is calculated as

1. Two exams: **20%** for the midterm and **30%** for the final.
2. 6-8 Quizzes: **30%** completed at the beginning of class or in recitation.
3. 4-6 Programming Projects: **20%**.

The final course grade will be assigned as follows:

95-100 A, 90-95 A-, 87-90 B+, 83-87 B, 80-83 B-, 76-80 C+, 72-76 C, 65-72 D, < 65 F

You will only get a grade of *Incomplete* if miss the final exam for a reason verified and approved by the Dean Of Students. Not for any other reason.

Support resources

I'm always available for help after class and during office hours. You also have your

recitation leader for assistance during recitation and their office hours. Finally, the computer science department offers daily additional tutoring hours and a question and answer forum for this course. Everyone in the department is enthusiastic to help you learn, especially me!

Attendance

If you miss a quiz for a valid reason, fill out this form. You can make up to two quizzes on a day near the end of the semester.

Assignment Grading

Submit a zip file of all files necessary to run your code. **If you use any code from class you must include the code you use.** If your program does not run at the time you have submitted it, you get a 0.

Everyone receives an automatic extension of 2 days past the due date of the project in case of emergency (you must fill out this form). If your assignment is handed in more than 2 days after the deadline for any reason, you get a 0.

Usage of AI assistants

Modern software development relies strongly on AI chatbots to write short sections of code. What's the purpose of software developers then? Writing complex code often involves *picking the correct implementation of a function among many* — this involves understanding how all the parts of large codebases interact, how these parts interact with hardware, and how this code is likely to be used in the future. In short, a good software engineer worth their pay should understand every part of their codebase deeply, and therefore should only use an AI chatbot to type out logic and code they have in their mind.

The purpose of this class is to teach you the basics of data structures. It may be a good idea to use AI chatbots to help study, by coming up with questions, evaluating your code, explaining concepts, etc But you're likely stunting your development as a software developer if you use it to write your code for you. I'd suggest you start your chats by forbidding the chatbot from writing any code at all.

Disability Disclosure Statement

Students requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities as early as possible in the semester for assistance.

Henry and Lucy Moses Center for Students with Disabilities

Telephone: 212-998-4980

Website: <http://www.nyu.edu/csd>

Email: mosescsd@nyu.edu