

Introduction to Analysis of Algorithms

Spring 2021

CSE 102 [previously CMPS 102]

Grading and Evaluation Policy

Every student is *required* to take this class on a letter grade basis (This decision is taken by the department and is not left to the instructor to decide). Exception to this policy was made once during Spring 2020. This exception was not granted during Fall 2020 or Winter 2021. This exception will not be granted in Spring 2021.

Homework (10%)

Homework will be assigned regularly. All homework may not carry equal weight. After adding the scores of all individual homework, total score on the homework will be normalized to 10%. There will be approximately 6-8 assignments during the whole quarter. Due dates of assignments are firm. Late submissions will be given zero credit. No exceptions.

Additional Homework Guidelines are posted separately on Canvas under Syllabus.

Quizzes (40%)

Quizzes will be given out regularly. There will be approximately 30 minute in-class 5-7 quizzes through out the course. Quizzes will be open book and open notes. No assistance from any internet sources or from any human being is allowed during the quiz. Use of cell phones or social media during the quizzes and exams is strictly prohibited. All quizzes will be counted. At most one absence from a quiz is allowed either with prior permission of the instructor or only in case of emergency or exceptional circumstances (in which case, this should be communicated to the instructor at the earliest). The score for the missing quiz will either be allocated on a pro-rata basis or on an assessment via 1-1 virtual meeting with the instructor or a teaching staff member.

We are aware of the widespread cheating that may take place during quizzes and examinations, Every effort will be made to curb cheating. Students will be required to keep their video on while taking the quiz. University-approved monitoring services may be used during quizzes or examinations to monitor logging activities. Therefore, it is important that you have video connectivity during these times.

Specific date may or may not be pre-announced during the lecture for a quiz date. The quiz may be administered at the beginning, or the middle, or at the end of the class. Quizzes may be randomized so that every student does not get the same quiz but level of difficulty will remain the same to maintain fairness. In some cases, a date for the quiz may be pre-announced. It is students' responsibility to ensure that s/he is present in the class for the quiz.

Additional quiz guidelines are posted separately on Canvas under Syllabus.

Portfolio (10%)

Portfolio guidelines are posted separately on Canvas under Syllabus.

Penalty (negative) points will be assigned in cases of (i) not signing up or missing weekly engagements or turning up late with the teaching staff, or (ii) cheating during quizzes/examinations, and or (iii) non-citing of resources for homework assignments.

As described in the syllabus, 60% grade will determine the tier and the primary grade.

Students will be provided following four opportunities to improve or maintain their primary grade as follows:

1. Re-Submission of Quizzes: After the quiz solutions have been posted, students will be allowed an opportunity to resubmit the solutions to quizzes in their own words and explain the solutions to a teaching staff member. The goal is to learn from the mistakes and demonstrate that new learning has occurred.

“Re-written Quizzes with Reflections” + “1-1 Explanations to Teaching Staff”
Further guidelines will be posted separately on Canvas under Syllabus.

2. Mid-Term Examination: There will be a mid-term examination around mid to 3rd week of May prior to Memorial Day covering the material for the first 5-6 weeks. Same guidelines as the quizzes will be adopted with the following modification: the exam will be easy (in comparison to quizzes) and much more time will be allowed. The goal is to demonstrate learning of most basic/minimal concepts covered in the class.

3. Advanced Homework

The goal is to demonstrate additional learning by doing extra problems on a weekly basis.

Additional guidelines are posted separately on Canvas under Syllabus.

Only students desirous of top grades (B+/A-/A/A+) need to submit advanced assignment. Since students are not aware of the tier they are in till half way through the quarter, it is recommended that *every student decides for himself/herself whether s/he wants to pursue this option or not.* automatically allocated towards this effort.

4. Final Project

These guidelines will be posted separately on Canvas under Syllabus. The basic idea is that the student will research an algorithm or a topic relevant to the course (and not discussed in the class) and submit a final project on this topic.

Weights¹ assigned to these four components will depend upon the primary grade or tier.

		Midterm Exam 1	Re-Submitted Quizzes + Explanations	Adv HWs	Final Project	Expected Grade
Tier 0	F/NP ²	10%	30%	0%	0%	F/C/C+
Tier 1	C/C+	10%	30%	0%	0%	F/C/C+/B-/B
Tier 2	B-/B	10%	20%	10%	0%	C/C+/B-/B
Tier 3	B+/A-	5%	10%	25%	0%	B-/B/B+/A-
Tier 4	A/A+	5%	5%	20%	15%	B+/A-/A/A+

Final Grades will be modified for most students by one grade above or below the primary grade. In some cases, when the performance in the four components above is far above expectations or far below expectations, the final grade may be two grades above or lower than the primary grade.

¹ The weight for the “rewritten quizzes + reflections” go down from 30% (for tier 0, 1, and 2 students) to 10% (for tier 3 students) to 5% (for tier 4 students). Please note that tier 3 and tier 4 students have fewer errors in the quizzes and fewer corrections to rewrite. Therefore, although students may not be aware of the tier they may be in, till half way through the quarter, it is recommended that *every student in the class complete this task*. This task is particularly critical for students in tiers 0, 1, and 2. It is my experience that this is the best way for students in tier 0 and 1 to climb up to a passing grade. If you are concerned that you may not pass the course, it is expected that you will take this task very seriously and devote enough time to understand the solutions to the quizzes, re-write the solutions correctly in your own words, and take initiative to explain them to a teaching staff in a timely manner to demonstrate that you have learnt this material well.

² Students in the lowest 10 percentile will not pass the class. 10-15 percentile unlikely, but they can improve their chances by doing re-corrected quizzes. 15-20 percentile have a fair chance to pass the class if they do re-corrected quizzes.