CSC-421 Applied Algorithms and Structures
Spring 2017

Instructor: Iyad Kanj
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Office Hours: Monday 4:40 - 5:40 PM & Wednesday 4:45 - 6:45 PM
Course Website: https://d2l.depaul.edu/

Course Description

This course covers techniques for designing and analyzing algorithms. Fundamental topics such as running-time analysis and efficiency, and problem-solving techniques (divide-and-conquer, greedy methods, dynamic programming, etc.) will be covered. Examples from various areas, including computational geometry and bioinformatics, will be discussed.

Prerequisites

CSC-400 and CSC-403.

Required Textbook

T. H. Cormen, C. L. Leiserson, R. Rivest, and C. Stein, *Introduction to Algorithms*, **3rd edition**, *The MIT Press*, 2009, **ISBN 978-0262033848**. You can get an electronic/soft copy of the textbook, but please note that the exams for this course are open book, and electronic devices and internet access are not allowed in the exam (so if you get an electronic copy, you will need to print out the relevant material and bring it to the exam).

Attendance

Attendance is not mandatory but highly recommended. Students who miss a lecture are responsible for the material covered in the lecture.

Grading

- *Homework Assignments — 30 %*

  Assignments are due on the specified due date and time. Late submissions are not accepted.

- *Midterm — 30%*

  The midterm exam is on Monday, May 1st, from 5:45-7:45 PM. No make-up exams will be given. The exam is open book. Electronic devices and internet access are not allowed.

- *Final Exam — 40%*

  The final exam is on Monday, June 5th, from 5:45-8:15 PM. The final is cumulative. No make-up exams will be given. The exam is open book. Electronic devices and internet access are not allowed.

Topics

1. Review: growth of functions and recurrences, analysis of the running time of some basic algorithms, graphs and their representations (chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 22, 33).

2. Divide and conquer (examples from chapters 2, 4, 7, 33).

3. Dynamic programming (chapter 15).

4. Greedy algorithms (chapters 16, 23, 24).

5. Fundamental graph problems and algorithms if time permits (selection from chapter 26).

Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to use basic algorithmic structures for modeling problems in computer science.

- Students will learn basic techniques for designing and analyzing computer algorithms.

- Students will be exposed to a set of fundamental problems that have applications in several areas of computer science.

Plagiarism

All assignments must be done on **YOUR OWN**. You are strictly prohibited from using any source other than the text and the lecture notes when working on the homework problems. In particular, you are strictly forbidden from acquiring hints and/or solutions from the internet or from any other external resource or person (besides the instructor). Copying is strictly forbidden. Scholastic dishonesty includes acquiring answers from any unauthorized source, working with another person except when permitted by the instructor, observing the work of other students during any exam, providing answers when not specifically authorized to do so, and informing any person of the contents of an exam prior to the exam. Disciplinary actions range from grade penalty to expulsion. Please refer to the school policy on plagiarism for more specific details.

Students with Disabilities

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential. To ensure that you receive the most appropriate accommodation based on your needs, contact the instructor as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at: csd@depaul.edu

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Course Evaluation: School Policy

Course and instructor evaluations are critical for maintaining and improving course quality. Please complete the evaluations at the end of the quarter.