Special Sections of EECS 203 (Fall ‘23)

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### **Focus on Fundamentals discussion sections**

Focus on Fundamentals discussions have smaller class sizes and meet for two hours each week to provide additional time to review and practice concepts introduced during lecture (standard discussion sections meet for one hour each week). To facilitate greater understanding of course concepts, students in this section should be prepared to work collaboratively with their peers to complete practice problems. This section is designed to enable more access to instructors through a higher instructor-to-student ratio and provide more time for students to work together on problem sets.

Working through problems in small groups is a key part of these discussions, and we encourage anyone who enjoys collaboration to sign up. Attendance and participation are required for students enrolled in a Focus on Fundamentals discussion, and it is part of the overall course grade for these students. (For standard discussion sections, attendance is not taken and does not factor into the student's grade.)

*For Fall 2023, the Focus on Fundamentals discussions are DIS 022, 023, 024. See course guide for meeting times and locations.*

### **CSP discussion section:**

Open to students in the Comprehensive Studies Program or affiliate programs (e.g., MSTEM). The discussion format is similar to the Focus on Fundamentals discussion, with a strong emphasis on community-building, collaboration, and instructor support. For FAQ and why students should sign up for this section click [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KzgA42cXJb2RqO2FsH55PBVJKOY9n2W2ub0dYhtGgVg/edit).

*For Fall 2023, the CSP discussion is DIS 021, which meets on Fridays 2:00 - 4:00pm.*

### **Extended discussion section:**

The extended discussion will meet for an hour and a half each week (instead of the standard one-hour discussion) to provide additional time to review and practice concepts introduced during lecture. Students can switch between extended and standard discussion sections anytime throughout the semester without changing their enrollment. This section is purely designed for additional time, please see the Focus on Fundamentals (DIS 22, 23, and 24) for longer discussions with an emphasis on group work and more access to instructors through a higher instructor-to-student ratio.

*For Fall 2023, the Extended discussion section is DIS 018, 019, 020. See course guide for meeting times and locations.*

### **Accelerated Lecture section**

The accelerated lecture section will cover the required material each week, but at a faster pace. About 10-30 minutes of lecture time per week will then be dedicated to additional non-testable bonus material that is not a part of the required curriculum. This may include deeper applications of the content in computer science, or conceptually harder or more interesting problems related to the current course content. The accelerated lecture may be of particular interest to students with a stronger mathematical background or previous exposure to proofs.

This accelerated section uses exactly the same homework and tests as the other sections, and students in the accelerated section will not have any additional required work. Students are welcome to switch freely between the accelerated lecture and the concurrent standard lecture section at any time throughout the semester. You do not need to be registered for the accelerated lecture to attend. Similarly, if you are registered for the accelerated lecture but prefer a standard lecture, you are welcome to attend any of the other 5 lecture sections. There are no accelerated discussion sections. You may register for any discussion that fits your schedule.

*For Fall 2023, the accelerated lecture section is LEC 005, which meets TuTh 4:30-6:00 pm.*

**Top-level things to know for the first week of classes:**

* Lectures begin Tuesday
  + Lec 005 is an accelerated section and 006 has no meeting time - read the details below for more information
* **DIS 023 and DIS 024 will meet on Monday 8/28, the first day of classes.**
* All other Discussions begin Thursday
* Office hours - see the office hours calendar for times and locations

**The Details (also important):**

Details, including a quick overview of the differences (and non-differences) between the various sections of the course, to help you plan out your semester.  You can go [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dcndin061kLbDmbY-0y9QktEy9dgVA-922iSgcHy1JY/edit#heading=h.4f3nlczgude0) for more information on the special sections listed below.

**Lectures:**

* While we encourage students to attend the lecture for which they are registered, we do allow students to attend a different lecture section if they prefer.
  + For example, if you have a scheduling conflict with your enrolled lecture, are enrolled in Section 006 (which does not have a meeting time), or want to switch into or out of the accelerated lecture, you can attend any other lecture that fits your schedule.
  + You do not need to change your enrollment on Wolverine Access.
* A live Zoom option is available for most lectures
* Recordings will be available for both lectures and discussions
* None of the lectures will take attendance.

***Differences between Lecture Sections:***

* + Sections 001-004 are identical in terms of content covered each week.
  + Section 005 (Bodwin, TTh 4:30-6) is an **accelerated section**.
    - That means that the section will proceed slightly faster through the base content and examples, and then spend an additional 10-20 minutes per week on non-testable bonus content including puzzles, advanced topics, and ways that the content of EECS 203 connects to other areas of computer science.
    - This section is targeted at students who might have previous exposure to proofs or logic, or who may be interested in the theoretical or mathematical side of computer science.
    - There are no additional assignments or work requirements for the accelerated lecture
  + Section 006 is listed as a **hybrid** section, and has no assigned meeting time.  **If you are registered for 006**, you have the same lecture options as the rest of the students in 203: **You can attend any of the lectures 001-005** (provided there is sufficient space in the lecture hall), or you can watch the lecture recordings, which will be posted on Canvas shortly after each lecture.

**Discussions:**

* **DIS 023 and 024 WILL meet on Monday, Aug 28**(the first day of classes).
  + **023:** Mon 5:30-7:30pm
  + **024:** Mon 1:30-3:30pm
  + As Focus on Fundamentals Discussion sections, these sections emphasize collaboration and high student-instructor interaction. It is important for the group to meet as early as possible, hence the first-day Discussion meeting.
* All other Discussions begin on Thursday, Aug 31.
* If you are enrolled in a **Focus on Fundamentals or CSP Discussion (DIS 021, 022, 023, 024)**, attendance is required at your enrolled discussion section.
  + Additional details on how these sections differ from standard sections can be found [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dcndin061kLbDmbY-0y9QktEy9dgVA-922iSgcHy1JY/edit#heading=h.4f3nlczgude0).
* All other discussion sections: while we encourage you to attend the discussion for which you are registered, you are welcome to attend any non-FoF/CSP discussion. Attendance is not taken at standard or extended discussions sections, but is very strongly encouraged for success in the course.