

Syllabus  
Discrete Structures  
Spring 2026

This course is an introduction to the study of *computation*. The objective is to cultivate the mathematical maturity and frame-of-mind characteristic of a computer scientist. This involves fluency in the first-order logic, an understanding of axiomatic deductive argumentation, a cultivation of the ability to write proofs, and deep knowledge of fundamental topics like set theory, arithmetic, and the relative cardinalities of finite and infinite sets.

1 Schedule

Lectures will be held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 4:00 PM to 4:50 PM in 151 Loomis Laboratory.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Lectures will be recorded and then linked to from the course website.

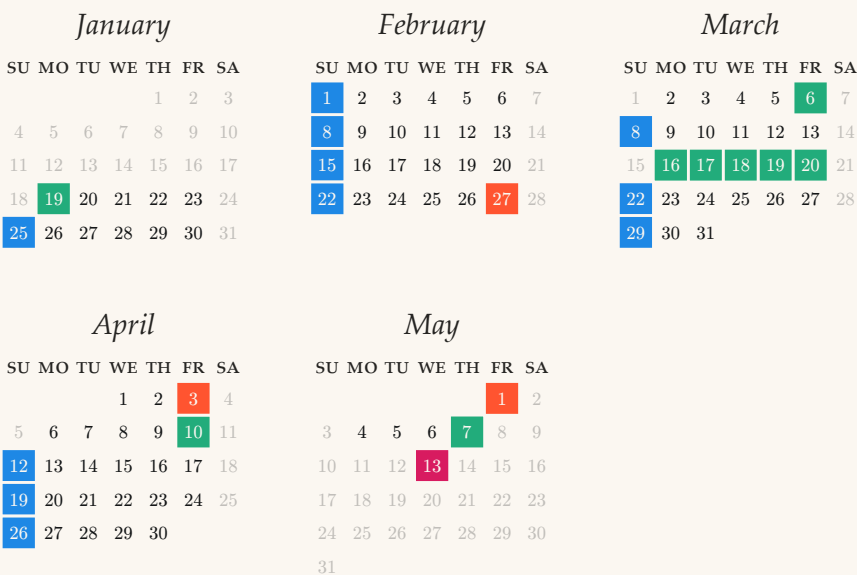


Fig. 1. Dates and events of interest.

- Problem Set due date
- Midterm Exam date
- Final Exam date
- Holiday

2 Resources

Website

The course website can be found at [cs173.tech](https://cs173.tech). It contains all of the information relevant to the course, including lecture notes, problem sets, solutions, staff contacts, office hours, this syllabus, and more.<sup>2</sup>

Slack

The course Slack server, located at [uiuc-cs173.slack.com](https://uiuc-cs173.slack.com), will be the primary medium for announcements, questions, discussions, and all other basic communication between staff and students.

<sup>2</sup>There is no required textbook for this class. The instructor is preparing lecture notes, which will be continually updated as the semester progresses and published on the course website.

### 3 Grading

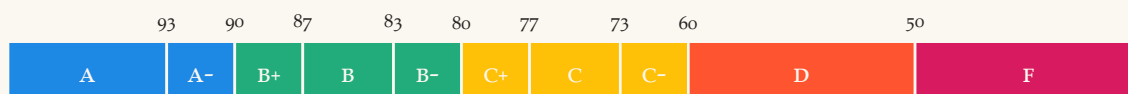
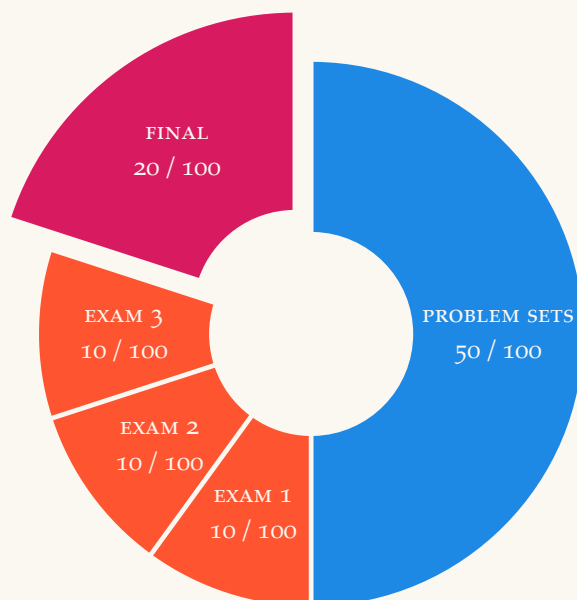


Fig. 2. The scale for determining letter grades. Final grades are rounded up to the next integer.

Fig. 3. Breakdown of grades by type.



### 4 Assignments

#### Problem Sets

There will be roughly 10 graded problem sets<sup>3</sup> throughout the semester. Problem sets will be assigned weekly and due on Sundays at 11:59 PM unless there was an exam the preceding week. The lowest out of the 10 graded problem sets will be dropped when computing overall grades. Late work will not be accepted.<sup>4</sup>

Problem sets will be submitted through [Gradescope](#). You may choose to *handwrite*<sup>5</sup> or *typeset*<sup>6</sup> your submission. We aim to return your graded feedback within one week of the submission deadline.

#### Midterm Exams

There will be three midterm exams spaced throughout the semester. All midterm exams will be administered in class during the regularly-scheduled class time. You will be allowed one sheet<sup>78</sup> of *handwritten*<sup>9</sup> notes for midterm exams.

<sup>3</sup>... in addition to the first problem set ps00, which will be ungraded...

<sup>4</sup>If you have an extenuating circumstance, please contact the instructor.

<sup>5</sup>Make sure your writing is professional and your work is organized. Illegible submissions will be given zero credit.

<sup>6</sup>[L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X](#) and [Typst](#) are the standard tools for typesetting academic documents.

<sup>7</sup>standard 8.5x11 or A4 size

<sup>8</sup>front-and-back

<sup>9</sup>Printed, digital, and typeset notes are *not allowed*; notes must be physically written on paper by hand.

## Final Exam

There will be a cumulative final exam on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May. The final will be administered between the hours of 1:30 PM and 4:30 PM. The location of the final exam has not yet been determined. You will be allowed two sheets<sup>1011</sup> of *handwritten*<sup>12</sup> notes for the final exam.

If the numerical score<sup>13</sup> of the final exam is greater than the lowest numerical score<sup>14</sup> of any of the individual midterm exams, then the score from the final exam will replace the lowest midterm score.<sup>15</sup>

## 5 Honor Code

	COLLEAGUES	RESOURCES	SOLUTIONS	LLM
CONSULTING	ALLOWED	ALLOWED	FORBIDDEN	DISCOURAGED
COPYING	FORBIDDEN	CITE	FORBIDDEN	FORBIDDEN

See the [student code](#) for general university guidelines and detailed information on [academic integrity](#) for students.

<sup>10</sup>standard 8.5x11 or A4 size

<sup>11</sup>front-and-back

<sup>12</sup>Printed, digital, and typeset notes are *not allowed*; notes must be physically written on paper by hand.

<sup>13</sup>measured out of 100 points

<sup>14</sup>measured out of 100 points

<sup>15</sup>In the case of a tie, the final score will only replace one midterm score.

Tab. 1. The rules of engagement.