CSC C73: ALGORITHM DESIGN AND ANALYSIS

Course Information

Course staff, contact information, and meeting times

Instructor: Vassos Hadzilacos

Office Hours: Mon 2:30 - 3:30, or by appointment.

Email: vassos@cs.toronto.edu

TA: Per Parker, Bin Wen, Dickson Wong

Office Hours: Fri 12-2, only on weeks preceding assignment due dates and the midterm test

Office Hours Location: IC 437, unless otherwise announced

Course web page: http://www.cs.toronto.edu/~vassos/teaching/c73

Course forum page: piazza.com/mail.utoronto.ca/fall2014/cscc73/home

Meeting times:

Lectures: Mon 11 - 12 (IC 220) and Wed 10 - 12 (SW 143)

Tutorials: Tue 3-4 (HW 214), Thu 1-2 (AC 334) or Thu 5-6 (AA 208), as assigned

Course content

Course goals: To introduce the main algorithmic paradigms (greedy, divide-and-conquer, dynamic programming, and linear programming) through concrete examples. Emphasis on abstract thinking and problem-solving, not on programming.

Prerequisites: CSC B63.

Textbook: Kleinberg and Tardos, *Algorithm Design*, Addison Wesley 2006; or Dasgupta, Papadimitriou, and Vazirani, *Algorithms*, McGraw Hill 2006. (Both of these textbooks are excellent resources with complementary strengths. You don't need to own both.)

Schedule: See the course web page for the tentative weekly schedule.

Course policies

Academic integrity: Academic integrity is essential to the University of Toronto and so the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. Academic offences relevant to this course include using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate attribution; obtaining or providing unauthorised assistance on any assignment, test, or exam; misrepresenting your identity; and falsifying or altering documentation.

Accessibility: If you have a disability or health condition that may require accommodation, please consult with AccessAbility Services (SW-302, 416-287-7560, ability@utsc.utoronto.ca) as soon as possible. Enquiries to AccessAbility Services are confidential. Its staff will help assess needs and, if appropriate, will provide referrals and arrange accommodations.

Evaluation: There will be four equally-weighted homeworks worth 40% of the course mark, a midterm exam worth 20% of the course mark, and a final exam worth 40% of the course mark. A mark of at least 35% on the final exam is required to pass the course. (Repeated differently: If you receive less than 35% on the final exam you automatically fail the course, regardless of how well you have done on homeworks or the midterm exam.)

Homework marking: For each homework assignment we may mark only a selected subset of the questions. In that event, the homework will be marked out of the total weight of the selected questions.

- Late homework policy: No late homework will be accepted. If you miss a homework deadline because of a medical or personal exigency, you must fill out the Special Consideration Form (available on the course web page). In case of a medical exigency, you must also submit the U of T Verification of Student Illness or Injury Form, completed and signed by your physician (also available on the course web page). If I judge your reason for missing the deadline to be valid, I will use the average mark you achieved in other homeworks as your mark for the missed homework.
- Homework collaboration policy: In each homework you may collaborate with at most one other student who is currently taking CSCC73. If you collaborate with another student on a homework, you and your partner must submit only one copy of your solution, with both of your names on the cover. The solution will be graded in the usual way and both partners will receive the same mark. Collaboration involving more than two students is not allowed. For help with your homework you may consult only the instructor, TAs, your homework partner (if you have one), your textbook, and your class notes. You may not consult any other source.
- Remarking policy: If your request concerns a simple addition error, see the instructor. To make any other kind of remarking request, you must fill the Remark Request Form (available on the course web page), attach it to your homework assignment or test, and give it to the instructor no later than one week from the date the marked assignment or test was made available to the class. Remarking requests made after this deadline will not be accepted.
- Missed midterm test policy: If you miss the midterm test due to a medical or personal exigency, get in touch with your instructor immediately and fill out the Special Consideration Form (available on the course web page). In case of a medical exigency, you must also submit the U of T Verification of Student Illness or Injury Form, completed and signed by your physician (also available on the course web page). There will be no make-up test, but if I judge your reason for missing the test to be valid, I will use your final examination mark to compute your mark for the missed midterm test.
- Attendance in tutorials: There will be material presented only in tutorial and not discussed in the lectures, which I will expect you to know and on which you may be tested in homework assignments or exams.
- **Posting to the course forum:** We will use the Piazza service as the platform for class announcements and course-related discussions. The following guidelines apply to Piazza postings for this course:
 - Take the time to formulate your postings clearly.
 - Be courteous in your communications.
 - Your postings must abide by the academic integrity policy and the homework collaboration policy. Postings that offer hints on solutions to homework assignments violate these policies, unless they are provided by the instructor or TA.
 - Your postings can be made anonymously to other students (at your discretion), but not to the instructor.