

CS 482 Summer 2004
Course Information

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Reaching Us

The best way to reach the course staff is by coming to our office hours or sending us email. We will try to respond to questions as soon as possible - hopefully within one working day. If we judge that the question might have been better directed to the other staff, the question may be forwarded there unless an explicit request is included to the contrary.

We want to encourage the students to give us feedback on our teaching techniques, the material covered, or anything else. To facilitate this, we set up a hotmail account *coms482@hotmail.com* with the password *whatever* for you to use to send either of the staff email anonymously. Please only use this for constructive comments, and not just to send us spam or insults, or to sign up for something suspicious. Great, now we're giving you ideas.

Office Hours

We will have regular office hours during the day and evenings, but we haven't decided on them yet. Try to get your assignments started early so that if you have any trouble you can make it to someone's office hour in time. We are going to try not to be conned in to last-minute office hours.

We have booked the room Upson 215 from 6:30pm - 9:30pm every weeknight during the course (so, July 9th - August 20th) for evening office hours, study/review sessions, raves, or any other evening activities we may have. If you're in doubt as to where to find us for a planned evening session, that's where we'll be. If there's nothing planned, we probably won't be there. I mean, it's not our style to hang out in empty classrooms.

Lectures

Monday to Friday, 8:30-9:45, Hollister 368.

Course Materials

The official textbook for the course is a draft of a book by Jon Kleinberg and Eva Tardos, which you can get at the Campus Store. If the Campus Store has run out of books, you can call them and ask for an additional copy to be printed. This usually takes one or two days.

The authors developed the book while teaching CS 482 in the past few years, so it is organized around the structure of the course. However, it is not a substitute for coming to class, as we will cover material not in the book, and the book contains some material that is not required. Note that some reading assignments will be given from the book on topics not covered in class.

There are also some useful textbooks on reserve in the Engineering library, such as

- T. Cormen, C. Leiserson, R. Rivest. Introduction to Algorithms.
- A. Aho, J. Hopcroft, J. Ullman. The Design and Analysis of Computer Algorithms.
- G. Brassard, P. Bratley. Fundamentals of Algorithmics.
- M. Garey and D. Johnson. Computers and Intractability.
- D. Kozen. The Design and Analysis of Algorithms.

Course Requirements

Students are responsible for all material in the assigned readings, as well as material covered in lectures. There will be nine(ish) assignments, two in-class preliminary exams, one final exam, and pop quizzes that we may or may not tell you about. The assignments will be written exercises. Exams will cover material presented in class and will require you to do some heavy thinking on your feet. The pop quizzes will test you on what you learned in the last day or so. Your final grade is determined roughly as follows:

Assignments	Due Date	Subject		% Grade
Assignment 1	July 14	Matchings & Graphs		40 %
Assignment 2	July 16	Greedy & MSTs		
Assignment 3	July 20	Divide & Conquer		
Assignment 4	July 23	Dynamic Programming		
Assignment 5	July 30	Network Flows I		
Assignment 6	August 4	Network Flows II		
Assignment 7	August 9	NP Completeness		
Assignment 8	August 16	Special Cases & Approx. Algorithms		
Assignment 9	August 19	Probabilistic & Online Algorithms		
Exams	Date	Time	Place	% Grade
Prelim I	July 26	in class	Hollister 368	15 %
Prelim II	August 10	in class	Hollister 368	15 %
Final	August 20	TBA	TBA	25 %

The above table is, naturally, subject to change. And yes, we can add. Usually. The remaining 5% are up to the staff's discretion, and will probably be based on class participation, attendance and quizzes.

No late assignments will be accepted. Period. This is because we will often try to grade the assignments the same day they are due and return them immediately. They will be due at the beginning of lecture on the due date. This is partly to make you show up to class. And I know everyone always says this, but really, you should try to get started on your assignments (especially these ones) early.

If for some reason (such as severe life-threatening illness) you are unable to complete an assignment or take a test, please talk to one of the staff as soon as possible. We will handle them on a case-by-case basis.

Joint Work

In general, it is OK to talk with other students about the assignments, but you have to be very careful about how much you collaborate. A good rule of thumb is that you may talk to each other so long as no one writes or types anything down. And when you work in a group, *you must list on your assignment who you worked with*. Please do not hand in work done with (or by) someone else under your own name. The penalties for cheating at Cornell are severe, and include expulsion; see the CS Department's Code of Academic Integrity. Please don't break the rules. Not only is it bad, but it's disrespectful to us as instructors. If you are unsure about anything, please ask.