

CS481F01 Introduction to Theory of Computing

A. Demers

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Instructor

Alan Demers

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Office Hours: 8/31-9/7: MWF 10-11:30 or by appt. 9/7-: TBD

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e-mail The course e-mail account cs481@cs.cornell.edu should be used for questions about course material, homework, administrative details, etc. We will check this account daily.

Website <http://www.cs.cornell.edu/courses/cs481/2001fa>

This site will contain general information, announcements, homework assignments and solution sets, and summaries of lectures (usually just page references to the text).

Textbooks

Kozen, *Automata and Computability*.

This is the required text. The course will follow it fairly closely.

Hopcroft and Ullman, *Introduction to Automata Theory, Languages and Computation*.

A useful supplement to the text, on reserve at the Engineering Library.

Prerequisites CS280 or an equivalent level of “mathematical sophistication.”

CS381 vs CS481 These courses cover roughly the same material. CS481 is more mathematically oriented, and is probably the correct choice for grad students or undergraduates bound for graduate school. Early corrective shifting between these courses is encouraged. CS481 homework assignment 0 should help with the decision. If in doubt, speak to professor Ben-David or Demers.

Homework Problem sets will be assigned roughly once per week, due in class as hard copy (no email submissions, *please*). Homework will account for 45% of the grade. Each student’s lowest homework score will be discarded.

We will be *reluctant* to accept any late homework for credit. Homework solutions will be posted on the course website within a few days of the due date, and naturally no homework will be accepted after solutions have been posted. If an emergency arises, contact Prof. Demers as soon as possible.

Requests for regrades will be considered for two weeks after graded homeworks have been returned.

You may discuss homework problems with one another. You may consult books, papers, web pages, and so forth. In all cases, *cite your sources*, whether inanimate or animate. You must *independently* write up your answer so as to demonstrate that you understand the solution, including all cited material. In particular, just copying a solution from a published source is not acceptable. Your answer must be self-contained; that is, the grader should not be required to consult any references that you have used (and cited).

All this is in accordance with the Handbook of Academic Integrity at <http://www.cornell.edu/UniversityFaculty/docs/AI.Acknow.pdf> and we take it seriously.

Exams There will be two *in-class* prelims, each counting for 15% of the grade. The final exam will be comprehensive and will count for 25% of the grade.

The prelims and final will be open-book.

Again, any violations of the rules in the Handbook of Academic Integrity will be taken seriously.

Returned Assignments Unclaimed homework and exams for which batch return has been permitted (we must have a signed form on file) will be available in Upson 303.