

CMPS 102 Syllabus and Information

Fall 2006

Welcome to CMPS 102, Introduction to Analysis of Algorithms. The information on this sheet and on the course home page will be updated as the course progresses.

Prerequisites: All students must have successfully completed CMPS 101. Transfer students **must** have credit for this course approved by the CIS/CE board office.

Main text (required): Algorithm Design, by Kleinberg and Tardos.

We might also have supplemental reading assignments from the book-in-preparation by Dasgupta, Papadimitriou, Vazirani available at www.cse.ucsd.edu/~dasgupta/algorithms/

Instructor: Dimitris Achlioptas, Email: profcs102@gmail.com, Office: E2 343A

TA: Rosie Wacha, Email: rwacha@soe.ucsc.edu

Office hours: TBA at first class meeting.

Sections: TBA

Course Work: The course will be taught like a math course, not like a programming course. You will have regular written assignments, two in-class midterms, and a final examination. Regarding the weight of homework towards your final grade you get to **choose** between one of the following two schemes:

Default		Homework-heavy	
Homeworks	15	Homeworks	35
First Midterm	20	First Midterm	15
Second Midterm	25	Second Midterm	20
Final	40	Final	30

Indicate your choice on the front page of your first assignment. **This choice will be final.** If you don't indicate a choice, the Default scheme will apply. If exams stress you out (and you could use a regular stimulus against slacking), I encourage you to take the homework-heavy option. You will also learn more.

Important Rule: If you chose the Homework-heavy option you will be subject to the following rule. On each of the three exams (two mid-terms, final) there will be one question from a past homework. For that question, your exam-answer should be at least 75% as good as your homework answer (allowances will be made for presentation and minor details). If that's not the case, then you will get a score of 0 for that question on the exam *and you will be placed back on the Default grading scheme.*

I will give an incomplete grade only if there has been a medical/family emergency **and** the student has been doing at least average work. To gauge the difficulty of the exams and homeworks, I will average the top three overall scores to get a target percentage.

Assignments: Do not cheat.

Remember: if you don't cheat, you might lower your grade; if you do cheat you are certainly lowering yourself. If you believe that you deserve to cheat, e.g., because you "shouldn't have to take this class", do the honorable thing and bring up this point in class. Really. It's a valid subject. It'll be OK.

In any case: the Computer Science Department of UCSC has a zero tolerance policy for any incident of academic dishonesty. If cheating occurs, consequences within the context of the course may range from getting zero on a particular assignment, to failing the course. In addition, every case of academic dishonesty will be referred to the students college Provost, who sets in motion an official disciplinary process. Cheating in any part of the course may lead to failing the course and suspension or dismissal from the university.

What is cheating?

In short, it is presenting someone elses work as your own. Examples would include copying another student's written homework assignment, or allowing your own work to be copied. Although you may discuss problems with fellow students, your collaboration must be at the level of ideas only.

At a minimum, what you turn in as your homework should be something that you could reproduce given nothing but pen, paper and a copy of the textbook.

And, certainly, legitimate collaboration ends when you "lend", "borrow", or "trade" written solutions to problems, or in any way share in the act of writing your answers. When you do collaborate (legitimately) or receive help from anyone, you must credit them by placing their name(s) at the top of your paper. It really is OK and will not cost you grades.

Class Accounts: Out of class-communications will take place almost exclusively over email. You can use any email address you chose to receive class-emails and you must be able to read PDF files. Please indicate the desired email address at the sheet that will be passed around in class on the first day.