CS-580: Algorithm Design and Analysis (Spring 2018)

Instructor: Professor Jeremiah Blocki (jblocki@purdue.edu)
Office: LWSN 1165
Lecture: 10:30 AM-11:45 AM at WANG 2599 on Tuesday and Thursday
Office Hours: 11AM-noon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Course Website: https://www.cs.purdue.edu/homes/jblocki/courses/580_Spring18/index.html
Teaching Assistants:
  • Akash Kumar (akumar@purdue.edu) and
  • Chang Li (li1873@purdue.edu)

Course Outline: A tentative list of topics includes scheduling problems, minimum spanning tree problems, data compression, network flow, NP and computational intractability, approximation algorithms, randomized algorithms, sublinear algorithms.

Prerequisites: Undergraduate algorithms (CS 381). Mathematical maturity

Requirements and Grading: Students should attend most of the classes and read the text. Some material on the exams may appear only in the text or only in class. There will be one midterm exam and one final exam. There will be four to five homeworks. Homeworks must be formatted using a word processor (preferably, LaTeX). The percentage of the total course grade are:

  • Homework: 20%
  • Midterm 1: 20%
  • Midterm 2: 20%
  • Final Exam: 35%
  • Course Participation: 5% (attendance, participation in lecture, good answers on piazza)

Course Materials: We will use the textbook Algorithm Design by J. Kleinberg, E. Tardos which is published by Pearson Education. Additionally, each lecture may be accompanied by lecture slides, pointers to additional materials and videos.

Homeworks and Exams

Homework Assignments: There will be weekly or biweekly problem sets, due in hard copy, at the beginning of class. You are responsible to complete the entire homework assignment. The assignments will be posted on the course web page.

Your solutions should be typed in any text editor you prefer (LaTeX, Word, etc). You will find pointers on LaTeX on the class website. We will use blackboard for submission and evaluation of homework problems. Write your solutions as succinctly as possible while including all the necessary details. Please ask your questions on piazza.com (https://piazza.com/purdue/spring2018/cs58000/) and answer your colleagues’ questions to receive bonus points.
Some assignments might have an optional problem. The optional problem does not count towards your score, unless your grade will be a borderline case.

If you don’t know the answer to a question you will receive 15% of the grade for the problem if you admit it up-front by writing “I don’t know how to solve this problem” and nothing else. If your solution is wrong, you get a score of 0 for that problem. This option does not apply to optional problems.

Collaboration Policy: You may collaborate on your homework with your colleagues from the class, however you must write down the solutions yourself, and you must completely understand any solutions you submit. No other sources are allowed and violations will be penalized according to Purdue’s integrity policies. Do not copy another student’s homework and do not allow another student copy your homework. Discussions with other students should be appropriately acknowledged. Turning in a solution that you could not explain to the instructor is considered cheating.

Missing or Late Work: Homework is due at the beginning of class on the given due date. If you have a planned absence for a class on a date when homework is due, then you should email your completed assignment to the TA before the deadline. The following penalties apply for late homeworks:

- Late reports turned in within 24 hours of the deadline will receive a 10% penalty.
- Reports turned in 24 hours late, but within 48 hours of the deadline will receive a 25% penalty.
- Reports turned in more than two days after the deadline will be counted as a zero.

The score for a missed exam is 0. Exceptions will be made to the above policies in case of serious illness or bereavement. If a student has a planned absence for a class when an exam will be given, the student should make arrangement before the planned absence to take the exam early or take a makeup exam after returning to campus.

Exams: Exams are closed book. However, for each exam you will be allowed to prepare a 3x5 index card with your own notes (3x5 inches, double sided). You may not use calculators, cell phones, smart watches, computers, cameras, radios, televisions, books, Morse code, signals or sign language during exams. Do not look at other student’s exams or let others see your exam while the exam is in progress. Communicate only with the instructor (or TA) during an exam.

Grading: All re-grading of homework and midterm exams must be done within two weeks of the day the work is returned to the class. Note: During a re-grade the entire assignment/exam may be re-evaluated.

Academic Integrity

Behavior consistent with cheating, copying, and academic dishonesty is not tolerated. Depending on the severity, this may result in a zero score on the assignment or exam, and could result in a failing grade for the class or even expulsion. Purdue prohibits “dishonesty in connection with any University activity. Cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University are examples of dishonesty.” (Part 5, Section III-B-2-a, University Regulations) Furthermore, the University Senate has stipulated that “the commitment of acts of cheating, lying, and deceit in any of their diverse forms (such
as the use of substitutes for taking examinations, the use of illegal cribs, plagiarism, and copying during examinations) is dishonest and must not be tolerated. Moreover, knowingly to aid and abet, directly or indirectly, other parties in committing dishonest acts is in itself dishonest.” (University Senate Document 7218, December 15, 1972). You are expected to read both Purdue’s guide to academic integrity (http://www.purdue.edu/purdue/about/integrity_statement.html) and Prof. Gene’s Spafford’s guide (http://spaf.cerias.purdue.edu/integrity.html) as well. You are responsible for understanding their contents and how it applies to this class.

**Posting Class Material:** Posting material associated with this class (e.g., solutions to homework sets or exams) without the written permission of the instructor is forbidden and may be a violation of copyright.

**Purdue’s Honor Pledge:** As a boilermaker pursuing academic excellence, I pledge to be honest and true in all that I do. Accountable together - we are Purdue. https://www.purdue.edu/provost/teachinglearning/honor-pledge.html

**Attendance**

Students are expected to be present for every meeting of the classes in which they are enrolled. Only the instructor can excuse a student from a course requirement or responsibility. When conflicts or absences can be anticipated, such as for many University sponsored activities and religious observations, the student should inform the instructor of the situation as far in advance as possible and plan to make up for missed work.

**Grief Absence Policy:** Purdue University recognizes that a time of bereavement is very difficult for a student. The University therefore provides the following rights to students facing the loss of a family member through the Grief Absence Policy for Students (GAPS). According to GAPS Policy, students will be excused for funeral leave and given the opportunity to earn equivalent credit and to demonstrate evidence of meeting the learning outcomes for missed assignments or assessments in the event of the death of a member of the student’s family.

**Course Policies**

**Announcements:** Course announcements will be made through the course e-mail list. The e-mail list uses your Purdue e-mail address. You are expected to check this account regularly for information related to the class.

**Conduct and Courtesy:** Students are expected to maintain a professional and respectful classroom environment. This includes: silencing cellular phones, arriving on time for class, speaking respectfully to others and participating in class discussion. You may use non-disruptive personal electronics for the purpose class participation (e.g., taking notes).

**Correspondence with the instructor:** The best way to correspond in this class is by emailing the instructor. Please prefix all course-related emails with the string “CS-580:” to help filter email. The
instructor will make every effort to answer promptly (within 48 hours). However, replies could be delayed due to circumstances outside the instructor’s control.

**Students with Disabilities:** Purdue University is required to respond to the needs of the students with disabilities as outlined in both the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 through the provision of auxiliary aids and services that allow a student with a disability to fully access and participate in the programs, services, and activities at Purdue University. If you have a disability that requires special academic accommodation, please make an appointment to speak with the instructor within the first three (3) weeks of the semester in order to discuss any adjustments.

It is the student’s responsibility to notify the Disability Resource Center (http://www.purdue.edu/drc) of an impairment/condition that may require accommodations and/or classroom modifications. We cannot arrange special accommodations without confirmation from the Disability Resource Center.

**Instructor absence:** The instructor will be away for a few classes. There will be a guest instructor for these classes. If we need to reschedule additional classes, we will do so on an as-needed basis. Our plan is to use video lectures to supplement for any missing class periods.

**Emergencies:** In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor’s control. Relevant changes to this course will be posted onto the course website and/or announced via email. You are expected to read your purdue.edu email on a frequent basis. Emergency Preparedness: Emergency notification procedures are based on a simple concept: If you hear an alarm inside, proceed outside. If you hear a siren outside, proceed inside. Indoor Fire Alarms are mean to stop class or research and immediately evacuate the building. Proceed to your Emergency Assembly Area away from building doors. Remain outside until police, fire, or other emergency response personnel provide additional guidance or tell you it is safe to leave. All Hazards Outdoor Emergency Warning sirens mean to immediately seek shelter (Shelter in Place) in a safe location within the closest building. “Shelter in place” means seeking immediate shelter inside a building or University residence. This course of action may need to be taken during a tornado, a civil disturbance including a shooting or release of hazardous materials in the outside air. Once safely inside, find out more details about the emergency. Remain in place until police, fire, or other emergency response personnel provide additional guidance or tell you it is safe to leave. In both cases, you should seek additional clarifying information by all means possible: Purdue Home page, email alert, TV, radio, etc. Review the Purdue Emergency Warning Notification System multi-communication layers at http://www.purdue.edu/ehps/emergency_preparedness/warning-system.html. Please review the Emergency Response Procedures at https://www.purdue.edu/emergency_preparedness/flipchart/index.html. Please review the evacuation routes, exit points, emergency assembly area and shelter in place procedures and locations for our building. Video resources include a 20-minute active shooter awareness video that illustrates what to look for and how to prepare and react to this type of incident. See http://www.purdue.edu/securepurdue/police/video/
Violent Behavior Policy: Purdue University is committed to providing a safe and secure campus environment for members of the university community. Purdue strives to create an educational environment for students and a work environment for employees that promote educational and career goals. Violent Behavior impedes such goals. Therefore, Violent Behavior is prohibited in or on any University Facility or while participating in any university activity.

CAPS Information: Purdue University is committed to advancing the mental health and well-being of its students. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of support, services are available. For help, such individuals should contact Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at (765)494-6995 and [http://www.purdue.edu/caps/](http://www.purdue.edu/caps/) during and after hours, on weekends and holidays, or through its counselors physically located in the Purdue University Student Health Center (PUSH) during business hours.

Nondiscrimination: Purdue University is committed to maintaining a community which recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters tolerance, sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among its members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. In pursuit of its goal of academic excellence, the University seeks to develop and nurture diversity. The University believes that diversity among its many members strengthens the institution, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches campus life. Purdue University prohibits discrimination against any member of the University community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability, or status as a veteran. The University will conduct its programs, services and activities consistent with applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and orders and in conformance with the procedures and limitations as set forth in Executive Memorandum No. D-1, which provides specific contractual rights and remedies.

Privacy: The Federal Educational Records Privacy Act (FERPA) protects information about students, such as grades. If you apply for a job and wish to use the instructor as a reference, you should tell the instructor beforehand. Otherwise, the instructor cannot say anything about you to a prospective employer who might call. The instructor is happy to provide references and to write letters of recommendation for his students as needed.

Changes to the syllabus: This syllabus is subject to change. Updates will be posted and dated on the course website.