CIS 3200: Introduction to Algorithms (Spring '24)

General Information

Instructor: Erik Waingarten
Office hours: Wed: 5 – 6:30 pm (right after lecture).
Please do not email me. Come talk to me before or after class.

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Textbook: *Introduction to Algorithms* by Cormen, Leiserson, Rivest, and Stein, third edition.

Website: There is a Canvas website, as well as the following website: `https://www.seas.upenn.edu/~cis3200/current/`. We will use Ed Discussions for online clarifications related to the homeworks and other course material.

Course Organization

Homeworks and Independent Homeworks: There will be 7 *regular* homeworks, and 7 *independent* homeworks.

- The regular homeworks are collaborative assignments over a long(er) timeframe of 1-2 weeks; these will be graded for correctness.

- Independent homeworks have a short timeframe (2–3 days) and must be done completely independently; however, these are only graded for completion (and not correctness)—it will suffice to write *something* for each of the questions.

Homeworks (both regular and independent) total of 25% of the grade.

Midterms: Mid-Term 1 is on February 21 (W), and Mid-Term 2 is on April 3 (W). Each midterm is worth 20% of the grade. **They will be held during the class time.**

Final: The final exam will be held in accordance with the schedule decided by the Penn registrar's office. It is worth 35% of the grade. All exams will be **closed-book and closed-notes**.

Course Policies

- You are allowed (and encouraged) to collaborate on the regular homework assignments. However, **each of you must write up your own solutions independently, and you must not share the writeups of your solutions!** Please write names of all the students with whom you collaborated on each homework writeup.

- **You must typeset the regular homeworks, but may handwrite the independent homeworks.** We will provide you with Latex template for writing homework solutions. All homeworks are to be submitted via Gradescope.

- **Do not ask for extensions**. You are automatically granted:

  - For any two regular homeworks of your choice, you may submit up to 48 hours late without penalty. **You do not need to ask permission to use this extension.** Just indicate on the first page of your homework that you are using an extension.

  - You will not receive any credit for a homework submitted more than 48 hours after the original due date. We will close the submissions after 48 hours.

  - For every additional homework submitted beyond the two allotted extensions, you will automatically lose 25% of the points.

  - Use extensions wisely. You will not obtain an extension for the end of the semester.

- **No electronic devices (cellphones, laptops, tablets) during the class.** The only exception to this is if you are using a laptop or tablet for note-taking – please make sure that your usage is strictly limited to note-taking.

- **There are no make-up Midterms.** If you have a medical or other emergency which physically prevents you from taking a midterm, you may be eligible for an exception. You must submit a Course Absence Report (CAR), and the subsequent exam (either second Midterm or Final exam) will count as the midterm grade.