

Instructor: Marge Coahran

Science 1410A

coahranm@cs.grinnell.edu

Office hours (*tentative*): Mon 12:00-1:00 pm, Tues 5:00-6:00 pm, Fri 9:00-10:00 am, or by appointment. Please feel free to visit me during office hours. If you would like to see me outside of these hours, please contact me to schedule an appointment. Be aware that I am unlikely to be available for meetings on Thursdays since I intend to set that time aside for course preparation.

You should also feel free to send me email with any questions or comments you may have during the course. I will try to respond to email promptly, but this is likely to mean an hour or two, not a minute or two.

Class meetings: MWF 2:15–3:05, Science 2413

Course website: <http://www.cs.grinnell.edu/~coahranm/csc301/f2006>

I will post announcements, assignments, etc on the website, so please check it regularly.

Textbook: Kleinberg & Tardos, *Algorithm Design*, Addison-Wesley, 2005

Course work and grading distribution:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Date</i>
Homeworks (6)	50%	approximately every other week
Midterm Test I	15%	Wed, September 27 (in class)
Midterm Test II	15%	Mon, November 13 (in class)
Final exam	20%	Thurs, December 14 (2:00-5:00pm)

Rough Schedule* of topics:

<i>Topics</i>	<i>Approximate timeline</i>	<i>Readings</i>
Asymptotic analysis	8/25 - 8/28	Chapter 1, Sections 2.1-2.4
Balanced trees	8/30 - 9/6	TBA (to be announced)
Priority queues	9/8 - 9/11	Section 2.5
Graphs	9/13 - 9/20	Chapter 3
Disjoint sets	9/22	Section 4.6
Greedy algorithms	9/25 - 10/9	Sections 4.1-4.5
Dynamic programming	10/11 - 10/30	Section 6.1-6.4, 6.8
Divide and conquer	11/1 - 11/8	Section 5.1-5.5
Network flow	11/10 - 11/27	Section 7.1-7.3, 7.5-7.6
<i>Selected topics from:</i>	11/29 - 12/8	TBA
Approximation algorithms		
Local search		
Randomized algorithms		

* Please note that this is a rough schedule, and as such it is subject to change.

Homework Assignments:

Homework assignments will include both a written component and a computer programming component.

Your computer programs may be written in either Java or C. They must compile and run on MathLAN since I may run your programs to test them. You will submit your computer programs electronically: specific instructions will be forthcoming soon.

You will submit your written work on paper. Your work may be handwritten, or if you prefer, you may typeset it. If you choose to typeset it, I recommend that you use LaTeX, a programming language for typesetting mathematics. Whether you submit handwritten or typeset work, your work should be neat and tidy! If I cannot read your work, I can not grade it.

Late homework submission and grace days:

Homework assignments will be due at the beginning of class. Assignments that are submitted more than 10 minutes after the beginning of class will be considered late. Aside from the grace day policy described below, I will not accept late homework assignments.

Every student will be granted one grace day (i.e., one 24-hour extension) that can be used for any homework assignment, for any reason. Please use it wisely: you may need it more later than you do now! I would appreciate hearing in advance by email if you intend to use a grace day on a particular assignment since this makes my bookkeeping task easier. However, any assignment submitted late will automatically use your grace day if it has not been used already.

Test grading policy:

If you write “I don’t know” and nothing else on any test question, you will automatically receive 20% on that test question. This policy is intended to avoid responses designed solely to “pull my leg.” However, you should not use this strategy unless you have absolutely no idea about the question. Partially correct solutions will be given partial credit, which may be considerably more than 20%.

Note that the “20% rule” can be used only on tests. It does not apply to homework assignments.

Class attendance:

I expect you to come to every class prepared to participate. If you cannot attend a class session, you are responsible to get class notes from a classmate.

Collaboration and academic honesty:

Collaboration is not allowed on homework assignments or tests in this course.

I do not believe that transcribing or cutting and pasting someone else’s work is a valuable learning experience. Therefore, it is not permissible to use solutions written by someone else in a homework assignment, even if you cite your source. This applies to both written assignments and programming assignments. For example, you may not submit code found on the web, code or pseudocode found in a textbook, or code supplied by the instructor of another course in your own assignment. (There are two exceptions to this rule: you *may* include code that I provide, and you may base your code on pseudocode that I give or that is given in the course textbook.)

The work you submit must be your own. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will be treated as such.

Accommodations for students with disabilities:

If you have a disability, including a non-visible disability, please let me know early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will also need to provide documentation of your disability to the Dean for Student Academic Support and Advising, Joyce Stern, located on the 3rd floor of the Rosenfield Center (x3702).