

**Instructor: Marge Coahran**

Science 3827

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**Office hours** (*tentative*): Tues 3:00-5:00pm, Thurs 1:00-3:00pm, or by appointment.

You may drop by my office whenever I am in. However, I would prefer that you come during office hours if possible, since I too have a busy schedule.

Please feel free to send me email at any time. I will try to respond to email promptly, but this may sometimes mean an hour or two, not a minute or two.

**Class mtgs:** MWF 2:15–3:05, Science 1612

**Course website:** <http://www.cs.grinnell.edu/~coahranm/csc301/f2007>

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

**Textbook:**

Jon Kleinberg and Eva Tardos, *Algorithm Design*, Addison-Wesley, 2006

I have also posted several readings on eReserve at Burling Library. When these are assigned, I will provide a link to the eReserve system through the course website.

**Course work and grading distribution:**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Date</i>
Homeworks	30%	approximately every week
Midterm Test I	22.5%	Wed, October 10 (in class)
Midterm Test II	22.5%	Wed, November 21 (in class)
Final exam	25%	Thurs, December 20 (2:00-5:00)

**Schedule\* of topics:**

<i>Approximate timeline</i>	<i>Topics</i>
Weeks 1	algorithm analysis, heaps
Week 2	quicksort, lower bound on sorting
Week 3	balanced trees
Week 4-5	divide and conquer algorithms
Week 6	graphs, basic graph algorithms
Week 7-8	greedy algorithms
Week 9-10	dynamic programming
Week 11-12	network flow
Week 13	NP-complete problems
Week 14	approximation algorithms

\* *This is a rough schedule. As such, it is approximate and subject to change.*

**Class participation:**

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.

Please contribute to class discussions. I know that every one of you has something to offer, and class will be more fun for all of us if you do so!

**Homework Assignments:**

Homework assignments will be due approximately weekly. They will include both written work and computer programming. In this course, all programs should be written in Java. If this presents a difficulty for you, please come speak to me about it.

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 two grace days that can be used for any homework assignment, for any reason. This year, a grace day is an automatic extension *until the next class period*.

Please use your grace days wisely: you may need them 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 a grace day if you still have one to use.

**Collaboration and academic honesty:**

Collaboration is not allowed on tests in this course, but it is allowed on homework assignments under the following rules.

1. You may work on the homework assignments individually or with a partner. (You may make a different decision on this for each assignment.) If you work with a partner on an assignment, you should produce and submit a single assignment with both names on it. You will both receive the full grade that the assignment earns.

However, a warning: the exams are likely to include problems that are similar to homework problems. So if you work with a partner, I advise that you first work on the problems separately and then produce a single solution. Be sure that you both contribute equally to and fully understand every problem on the assignment. (The assignments will be written such that it is reasonable for them to be done alone, and the point of allowing collaboration is to improve your learning, *not* to increase your free time.)

2. You may also talk with others about the homework. However, except with your partner, you may only talk. You may not share specific answers, you may not leave a discussion with written notes, and you may not share code. (You should cite the people that you have such discussions with if you got ideas from them.)

3. Similarly, because I do not think that transcribing someone else's work is a valuable learning experience, it is not permissible to use solutions that you find on the web, a textbook, etc – even if you cite the source. (There are two exceptions to this rule: you *may* use code that I provide, and you may any information in the course textbook.)

The work you submit must follow the rules outlined above. Abuse of these rules constitutes an academic offence, and it will be taken seriously.

**“20% Rule” on Tests:**

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.

**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).