

ECE 360C - ALGORITHMS
Fall 2023 || Unique 17810
Course Syllabus

Instructor	Prof. David Soloveichik
Lecture	TTH 5:00pm-6:30pm
Location	EER 1.516
Email	david.soloveichik@utexas.edu

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Graduate TAs:

Brian Vo: brianhvo@utexas.edu

Preston Glenn: preston.glenn@outlook.com (programming assignments)

Undergraduate TAs:

Nidhi Dubagunta: nidhi.dubagunta@utexas.edu

Fu-Yao (Jefferson) Yu: fu.yao.yu@utexas.edu

OFFICE HOURS

Please check the Canvas Home page for office hours information.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course studies combinatorial algorithms. Students will learn proof-based reasoning about algorithms; asymptotic complexity analysis; algorithm design principles; common types of algorithms and their applications; and the nature, impact, and handling of intractability. Please see the separate Course Plan for the tentative schedule of topics covered in the course.

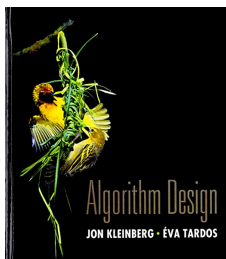
The principle focus of the lectures will be theoretical, in the style of the *Algorithm Design* text listed below. There will also be a number of programming assignments, in which you will be required to implement algorithms.

PREREQUISITES

This course is intended for undergraduate students who have taken at least ECE 312 and discrete math. You should be comfortable with basic proof techniques such as proof by induction, contradiction, etc, as well as basic mathematical objects such as sets, graphs, etc. You should be comfortable writing, compiling, and debugging programs of a moderate complexity (i.e., hundreds of lines of code). Course programming will be done in Java; lectures will not include instruction in any programming language, but preparation from ECE 312 should be sufficient for the course.

REQUIRED TEXT

- J. Kleinberg and E. Tardos. *Algorithm Design*. Addison Wesley 2005.

OTHER RECOMMENDED TEXT

- T. H. Cormen, C. E. Leiserson, R. H. Rivest, and C. Stein. *Introduction to Algorithms*. The MIT Press, 2009 (Third Edition).

EVALUATION AND GRADING

Your grade will be based primarily on exams and programming assignments.

- 20% of final grade: 3 programming assignments (each worth 6.67% of your final grade)
- 60% of final grade: 5 tests throughout the semester, with the lowest of the 5 dropped
- 17% of final grade: final exam
- 3% of final grade: participation

Each test will be graded on a curve. Final grades will be assigned based on the standard numerical criteria:

93+	90–92	87–89	83–86	80–82	77–79	73–76	70–72	67–69	63–66	60–62	0–59
A	A–	B+	B	B–	C+	C	C–	D+	D	D–	F

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The University and the Department are committed to preserving the reputation of your UT degree. To guarantee that every degree means what it says it means, we must enforce a strict policy on academic honesty: Every piece of work that you turn in with your name on it must be yours. As an honest student, you are responsible for enforcing this policy in three ways:

1. You must not turn in work that is not yours, except as expressly permitted. **You are not allowed to copy someone else's solutions or program code.** This is plagiarism. (See below for more details on the collaboration policy for programming assignments.)

2. You must not enable someone else to turn in work that is not his or hers. Do not share your work with anyone else. Make sure that you adequately protect all your files. Even after you have finished a class, do not share your work or published answers with the students who come after you. They need to do their work on their own.
3. You must not allow someone to openly violate this policy because it diminishes your effort as well as that of your honest classmates.

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty in assignments or exams are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of a 0 grade on an assignment or exam, failure in the course, and/or dismissal from the University. Changing your exam answers after they have been graded, copying answers during exams, or plagiarizing the work of others will be considered academic dishonesty and will not be tolerated. Plagiarism detection software may be used on the programs submitted in this class. **Any academic integrity violations will be reported to the Dean of Students following University policy** (<http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct/reportanincident.php>).

COLLABORATION ON PROGRAMMING ASSIGNMENTS

Integrity is a crucial part of your character and is essential for a successful career. We expect you to demonstrate integrity in this course and elsewhere. If you have any questions about acceptable behavior, please ask the course staff.

Programming assignments are to be done individually. Any programs that violate the class's academic honesty policy will receive a zero. **Do not make your code publicly available (e.g., github repo) as this enables others to cheat and you will be held responsible.** Do not cheat. We will catch you. Circumventing our strategies for detecting cheating is (much) more difficult than the assignments themselves.

You are encouraged to use books, your friends, the internet, ChatGPT, etc, to get solution ideas, but you may not copy/transcribe/transliterate code: get the idea, close the other resource, and then (**after enough time that the idea is in your long-term, not short-term, memory**) generate the code based on your own understanding. It is your responsibility to understand everything that you turn in. We reserve the right to ask you to explain any part of your homework assignment. If you are not able to explain what it means and why you chose it, that is presumed evidence of copying/cheating.¹

COURSE RESOURCES

★ Canvas: Course materials (e.g., the syllabus, lectures, assignments, etc) and grades will become available via postings on this course's Canvas web page as the semester progresses. Please check this page regularly; you are responsible for everything that is posted on Canvas.

¹The collaboration policy is adopted from Michael Ernst of University of Washington, and is used with permission.

★ Gradescope: Graded work and exams will be returned through Gradescope. We will also use Gradescope for submission of programming assignment.

★ Ed Discussion: We will use Ed Discussion (linked from the Canvas page) as the discussion forum. **We encourage you to both post and answer other student questions on Ed Discussion.** Note that Ed Discussion replaces Piazza used previously.

STATEMENT ON STUDENT SUCCESS

Your success in this class is important to us. We will all need accommodations because we all learn differently. If there are aspects of this course that prevent you from learning or exclude you, please let me know as soon as possible. Together we will develop strategies to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. I also encourage you to reach out to the student resources available through UT.

GRADE DISPUTES AND CORRECTIONS

The grade you are given on an exam or an assignment, or as your class grade, is final unless a concrete error has been made. Do not come to see the instructors for a better grade because you want one or you feel you deserve it. Come only if you can document a specific error in grading or in recording your scores. Errors can certainly be made in grading, especially when many students are involved. But keep in mind that errors can be made either in your favor or not. So it's possible that if you ask to have a piece of work re-graded your grade will go down rather than up.

Remember that the most important characteristic of any grading scheme is that it be fair. Keep this in mind if you're thinking of asking, for example, for more partial credit points on a problem. The important thing is not the exact number of points that were taken off for each kind of mistake. The important thing is that that number was the same for everyone. So it can't easily be changed once the grading is done and the exams or assignments have been returned.

If you are dissatisfied with a grade you receive, you must submit your complaint briefly in writing or by email, along with supporting evidence or arguments, within one week of the date that we first attempted to return the exam or assignment results to you. Complaints about grades received after the one-week deadline will be considered only if there are extraordinary circumstances for missing the deadline (e.g., student hospitalization). No new disputes will be accepted after 11:59AM two days before the course grade sheets must be turned in.

USE OF EMAIL

You cannot expect to get last-minute help on assignments by email. More generally, you cannot expect to get detailed answers to technical questions by email. Students are encouraged to discuss important matters during office hours. If you must send an email, spend extra time to ensure that you are both brief and clear. Please include your name in the

email message, not just your email address. Email is a valuable tool for communicating, but be sure to use it properly, and follow the rules of good email etiquette (e.g., no flaming, spamming, etc.). Although it's easy for you to dash off an email question, it takes time to answer it. In general, you should not ask email questions to which you can find the answer somewhere else (e.g., class notes, Ed Discussion).

LEARNING DISABILITIES

If you have a learning disability that requires special attention, either during class or during an exam, please submit the instructor a letter from the Dean of Students describing what needs to be done. You should do this during the first week of classes. (The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641.)

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

A student who is absent from an examination or cannot meet an assignment deadline due to the observance of a religious holy day may take the examination on an alternate day, submit the assignment up to 24 hours late without penalty, or be excused from the examination or assignment, ONLY if proper notice of the planned absence has been given to the instructor at least fourteen days prior to the classes scheduled on dates the student will be absent. For religious holy days that fall within the first two weeks of the semester, notice should be given on the first day of the semester. A student who fails to complete missed work within the time allowed will be subject to the normal academic penalties.

ONLINE PRIVACY

Web-based, password-protected class sites are associated with all academic courses taught at The University. Syllabi, handouts, assignments and other resources are types of information that may be available within these sites. Site activities could include exchanging e-mail, engaging in class discussions and chats, and exchanging files. In addition, electronic class rosters will be a component of the sites. Students who do not want their names included in these electronic class rosters must restrict their directory information in the Office of the Registrar.

ONLINE LECTURES

Recorded lectures may be posted in lieu of a live lecture or a part of a live lecture. Live lectures may be recorded; class recordings are reserved only for students in this class for educational purposes and are protected under FERPA. The recordings should not be shared outside the class in any form. Violation of this restriction by a student could lead to Student Misconduct proceedings.

COURSE POLICIES CAVEAT

Please read all class emails and announcements. As departmental, college and UT

policies change, we reserve the right to alter the effected course policies stated herein during the course of the semester.