Class Meetings

TuThu 1:20 pm – 2:35 pm, at Love 16.

Staff

Instructor: Viet Tung Hoang
Email: tvhoang@cs.fsu.edu
Office hours: TuThu 10 am–11 am, virtual

Prerequisites

COP 4530 (Data Structures & Algorithms)

Textbook

There is no textbook for our class, but if you want a book to improve your problem solving skill, I highly recommend the following:


What Is This Course About?

This course is an unusual class. It aims to teach you the dirty behind-the-scene work of problem solving. For example, for other classes, guessing a solution may be a taboo, but in actual problem solving, guessing is an essential skill.

This course is a discussion-centered class. Like a swimming class, the instructor is there to guide and give you feedback, but you do have to actively practice in the class.
How Will You Be Evaluated?

Scores. The maximum total score is 1000 and its breakdown is shown below. There is no exam in this class.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>Homework</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>800</td>
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Total 1000

Grading. Your total score will be converted to letter grade as shown below.

```
Score | Grade
-----|------
1000  | A+
900   | A
870   | A-
840   | B+
800   | B
770   | B-
740   | C+
700   | C
670   | C-
640   | D+
600   | D
0     | F
```

Participation Matters, But How?

In-class Drills. In each practice session, I’ll call a pair of students to vocally collaborate to solve an algorithm problem. I’ll give you some questions to nudge you towards the right direction, and remind you to stop when you have a wild goose chase.

Peer Feedback. For one homework, after the deadline, you’ll receive an anonymized paper of your classmates. You need to provide critical feedback for improving the exposition of this paper.

Writing Matters, Too

Bad writing hurts. In your homework, 5% of the points will be reserved for the exposition, and that will be judged anonymously by your classmates. See the course website for writing resources.

Writing Workshops. For workshop #1, you’ll need to write down the solution for a problem that we already discuss in class. For workshop #2, you’ll give critical feedback on the writing of an anonymized homework paper of your classmates.

Homework Policy

No late submission. In order to provide timely solutions to assignments, I do not accept late homework submissions.

Typesetting. Homework solutions must be typed, and submitted as a PDF file. See the course website for resources on typesetting mathematical writing, as well as a template for homework.

Group homework. You need to form a group of size two in each homework, so that during the collaboration, you are forced to say out loud what you are thinking. Partnership needs to be rotated. That is, you work with A in one homework, you need to find another partner B in the next homework.

Skip Class? You Won’t Pass

Attendance is required in this class. If your score is just a bit below the cutoff line, I’ll use your attendance to move you to the better grade.
University Attendance Policy

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the immediate family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. Accommodations for these excused absences will be made and will do so in a way that does not penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

Academic Honor Policy

FSU Academic Honor Policy (found at http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy): The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University’s expectations for the integrity of students’ academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to “… be honest and truthful and … [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University.”

Americans With Disabilities Act

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact:

Student Disability Resource Center
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu
http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu

Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.