

MAD 3512 Theory of Algorithms Tues., Thurs. 5:00 - 6:15 p.m
Spring, 2000 Section 1 GC 285

INSTRUCTOR: Mitch Rudominer
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OFFICE HOURS: Tues, Thurs 12:45 - 1:45; 3:30-4:45
and by appointment

Text: *An Introduction to Formal Languages and Automata* Second Edition, by Peter Linz

Syllabus: Time permitting, I plan to cover topics in chapters 1 through 5, 7, 8, 9, and 11.

Homework: Homework exercises will be assigned during every class. I will not be collecting or grading the homework this semester, instead I plan to give weekly quizzes (see below.) I will periodically distribute solutions to the homework exercises so that you can check your own work. Even though I am not collecting the assignments, it is extremely important that you do your homework. There are two good reasons why you should do your homework: (1) There will be weekly quizzes based on the homework; and (2) Doing the homework is the only way for you to really learn the material.

Quizzes: There will be a 15 minute quiz at the end of class every Tuesday. The quiz will cover the previous week's homework assignments. The quizzes will be graded and will count towards your final course grade. The first quiz will be on Tuesday, January 18. There will be approximately 10 quizzes. You must take the quiz at the assigned time—there will be no make-up quizzes. **I will drop your lowest 3 quiz grades.**

Exams: There will be 2 midterm exams and a final exam. All exams are in-class, closed-book, with no notes. The **first midterm** will be held on Thursday February 24. The date for the second midterm will be announced later. The **final exam** will be held on **Monday**, April 24, from 3:30 to 6:15. *Note the unexpected date and time for the final exam.* **NOTE ON MAKE-UP EXAMS:** You must take the three exams at their scheduled times unless you (a) tell me at least two weeks in advance that you are unable to be available at the scheduled time, or (b) have a last-minute serious emergency, in which case you must contact me *as soon as possible*, and then you must document your emergency. Only in cases (a) or (b) will you be allowed to take a make-up exam.

Grading Policy: At the end of the term you will be assigned a numerical score calculated as:

$$10\%(\text{quizzes}) + 25\%(\text{midterm I}) + 25\%(\text{midterm II}) + 40\%(\text{final exam})$$

Then you will be assigned a letter grade based on the rank of your score in the class. Since your final letter grade is a function of how the class as a whole does, the class is, in a sense, “curved.” I do not prescribe in advance which numerical grades correspond to which letter grades, in order to be able to compensate for exams that are inadvertently too difficult or too easy.