

CS2214A, Fall 2021

Discrete Structures for Computing

Course Outline

Objectives and contents of the course

This course presents an introduction to the mathematical foundations of computer science, with an emphasis on mathematical reasoning, combinatorial analysis, discrete structures, applications and modeling, and algorithmic thinking. Topics may include sets, functions, relations, algorithms, number theory, matrices, mathematical reasoning, counting, graphs and trees. Tentative list of specific topics includes:

- Foundations: logic and proofs
- Basic Structures: sets, functions, sequences, sums and matrices
- Number Theory and Cryptography (divisibility and modular arithmetic, integer representations, primes and greatest common divisors)
- Induction and Recursion
- Counting (basics of counting, pigeonhole principle, permutations and combinations)
- Discrete Probability (introduction to discrete probability, Bayes' Theorem)
- Relations (equivalence relations, partial orders)
- Graphs (graphs and graph models, connectivity, Euler and Hamiltonian paths)

The recommended textbook is Discrete Mathematics and Its Applications, 7th Edition, 2012, Kenneth Rosen, McGraw-Hill.

Prerequisites

Computer Science 1027A/B, 1037A/B, or Computer Science 2101A/B, in each case with at least 65%, and one full course or equivalent chosen from the following, with at least 60% in each: Applied Mathematics 1201A/B or the former Calculus 1201A/B, Applied Mathematics 1413, Calculus 1000A/B, 1100A/B, 1301A/B, 1500A/B, 1501A/B, Mathematics 1600A/B or the former Linear Algebra 1600A/B, or permission of the Department.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Anti-requisites: Math 2151A/B, Math 2155A/B, former Software Engineering 2251A/B.

Instructor

Marc Moreno-Maza
Email: moreno@csd.uwo.ca

Office hours time: Monday, 13:30 - 15:30

Office hours format: Zoom meetings

Office hours location: see the [OWL web site](#) of course

Policies regarding email and contact

For all questions related to the course materials (lectures, assignments, tutorials and exams) students **must use the forum** of the [OWL web site](#) instead of contacting the instructor or the TAs by email. Indeed a question about the lectures or an assignment problem is likely to be of interest to many students in the class. Writing to the instructor or the TAs should only be done for handling an exceptional and personal matter, like illness the day of the Final Exam.

Delivery mode

The format of the course lectures and tutorials will be public presentations in the lecture room [WSCC 55](#)

The slides used presented during the lectures and tutorials will also be posted along with videos recorded in the 2020 Fall term [OWL web site](#) of the course.

Course Website

Students should check both the [OWL web site](#) and the [course web site](#) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class. Students are responsible for checking both the course's web site and OWL on a regular basis.

Note that the [course web site](#) offers access to the slides used to present the lectures, as well as the supplementary reading materials, but does not offer access to the lecture videos, the assignments nor the tutorials.

Meanwhile, the [OWL web site](#) offers access to all course materials, including the lecture videos, the lecture slides, the assignments and the tutorials.

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the OWL Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

Protection of online content

The instructor owns the intellectual property (IP) of the lectures and tutorials materials even when such materials are posted online. Students are not to post lectures or tutorials materials including (assignment statements, assignment solutions, etc.) to any other websites or platforms or use the lecture recording or materials for any other purpose.

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor.

Class schedule

Lectures are on Mondays, from 10:30 to 12:30 and on Wednesdays from 10:30 to 11:30. Tutorials are on Wednesdays, from 11:30 to 12:30.

Computer requirements

Students must have a reliable internet connection and computer that are compatible with online learning (including working microphone and webcam) and testing system requirements.

As for web browser, using [Mozilla Firefox v20.0 or Higher](#) is required.

Methods of evaluation

The overall course grade, out of 100, will be calculated as follows:

- 5 assignments, each worth 5%, the sum of which will constitute 25% of the final grade;
- one midterm exam worth 25%,
- the final exam worth 50%.

None of the components will be dropped, and it is not possible to have the components re-weighted unless they were legitimately missed.

The Midterm is a written exam that will last 1 hr 45 min. The 3-hour written Final Exam will be scheduled during the exam period. NOTE: if your mark for the Final exam is better than your mark for the Midterm then your Midterm mark will be **automatically** raised to the Final mark.

The Midterm and the Final Exams are close-book. A reference sheet (provided by the instructor) is allowed for the Midterm and the Final Exams

To obtain a passing grade in the course, a student must obtain at least 50% on the final exam **and** the weighted average on the assignments and final exam.

Tentative assignment schedule

	Posted/Given	Due	Weight
Assignment 1	Fr. Sept. 24	Fr. Oct. 8, 23:55	5%
Assignment 2	Fr. Oct. 8	Th. Oct. 21, 23:55	5%
Assignment 3	Fr. Oct. 22	Tu. Nov. 9, 23:55	5%
Midterm Exam	Mo. Oct. 25, 10:30-12:15		25%
Assignment 4	We. Nov. 10	Tu. Nov. 23, 23:55	5%
Assignment 5	We. Nov. 24	We. Dec. 8, 23:55	5%
Final Exam	TBA		50%

Rules about assignments

Assignment descriptions will be posted on the OWL website of the course at least one week before the due date of the assignment.

Any changes, updates, and clarifications to assignments will also be posted on the OWL website of the course. It is the responsibility of the students to monitor these pages closely.

The submission of assignments is electronic using OWL.

Assignments must be typed using a **text editor** and submitted in **PDF format**.

When a student submits an assignment for evaluation, this student automatically certifies that the material she/he has handed in is exclusively her/his own work.

It is the student's responsibility to keep up-to-date backups of assignment disk files in case of system crashes or inadvertently erased files.

Grading policies

Every effort will be made to have homework assignments and exams marked and handed back within 2 weeks of the hand-in date. If we are unable to comply with our intended return dates, revised dates will be posted on the course website.

In case of questions regarding the marks, please note that no requests will be accepted for re-marking **later than one week after** homework assignments have been marked.

Late assignment policy

Late assignments cost 10% of the assignment per day late. After a week has passed from the due-date no assignments will be accepted for marking. **No extensions will be given for any assignment.**

If there is an academic accommodation approved by the Dean's office (see Accommodations section below) the corresponding assignment will be dropped and its weight will be added to the other assignments

Rules about not meeting a course requirement

If you are unable to meet a course requirement (final exam or assignment due date) due to illness or other serious circumstances, you must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to the Academic Counselling Office of your home faculty as soon as possible.

No make-up Midterm will be given. If you miss the Midterm for any reason (with or without an academic accommodation), then your Final mark will automatically have 75% weights for your overall mark in this course (this is consistent with the previously mentioned rule on automatic raising of the Midterm mark to the Final

exam mark if the latter is higher). The Final exam will cover the material of the whole course.

If you miss the Final Exam, contact your Faculty's Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Exam (the name given by the university to a makeup Final Exam).

Academic consideration for student absence

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the semester, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructor within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year.

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are not met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty Academic Counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home

For policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences, follow this [link](#), and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), follow this other [link](#).

Public health and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

Mask wearing

Students will be expected to wear triple layer non-medical masks at all times in the classroom as per Western policy and public health directives.

Students who are unable to wear a mask for medical or religious reasons must seek formal accommodation through [Accessible Education](#).

Students with accommodations approved by Accessible Education must make

arrangements with the instructor before coming to class.

Eating and drinking are prohibited in the classroom to facilitate proper mask wearing.

Students not wearing masks will be asked to leave the classroom.

Students unwilling to wear a mask as stipulated by Western policy and public health directives will be referred to the Department, and such actions will be considered a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

Daily return to campus questionnaire

Students must complete the [symptom checklist](#) every day.

Students, who are found to be on campus and who have not completed the symptom checklist or have failed the daily symptom check, will be referred for investigation under the Student Code of Conduct.

Failing the daily Return to Campus Questionnaire does not automatically excuse them from in-class assessments and assignment deadlines: students must still either use a Self-Reported Absence or seek Academic Considerations through their Academic Counsellors.

Any student who is unable to attend in-person due to COVID-19 symptoms will be asked to obtain a test. That test result – positive or negative – should be submitted to Academic Counselling.

Students are expected to carry their student cards to campus each day in anticipation of spot checks by Building Ambassadors.

All instruction (classes in particular) do not need social distancing.

Office hours will be conducted online. See the [OWL web site](#) of course

More information about public health and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular regarding vaccination requirements, can be found [here](#).

Accommodation policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities policy can be found [here](#).

Religious accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious

observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation”, follow the [link](#).

Academic policies

The website for Registrarial Services is [here](#).

In accordance with this [policy](#), the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual’s official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

All of the remote learning sessions for this course may be recorded. The data captured during these recordings may include your image, voice recordings, chat logs and personal identifiers (name displayed on the screen). The recordings will be used for educational purposes related to this course, including evaluations. The recordings may be disclosed to other individuals participating in the course for their private or group study purposes. Please contact the instructor if you have any concerns related to session recordings.

As mentioned above, participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor.

Ethical conduct

Scholastic offences are taken **seriously** and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a **Scholastic Offence**, at this [website](#).

Computer-marked, multiple-choice tests and exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. In particular, checking software, such as [MOSS](#), [Turnitin](#) or others will be used randomly for detecting similarity in assignment submission.

All assignments are individual assignments. You may discuss approaches to problems among yourselves. However, the actual details of the work (assignment coding, answers to concept questions, etc.) must be your individual effort. Assignments that are judged to be the result of academic dishonesty will, for the student's first offence. You are responsible for reading and respecting the Computer Science Department's policy on [Rules of Ethical Conduct](#) and [Scholastic Offenses](#).

Support services

Please visit the Science & Basic Medical Sciences Academic Counselling [webpage](#) for information on add/drop courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters.

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) at (519) 661-2147 if you have any questions regarding accommodation.

Western University is committed to a thriving campus as we deliver our courses in the mixed model of both virtual and face-to-face formats. We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience [website](#) to manage your academics and well-being. .

Learning-skills counsellors at the [Student Development Centre](#). are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling. See also the services provided by the [University Students' Council](#).
