

CSE 105 Course Information

Lecture: Tu and Th, 11:00AM–12:20PM in CENTR 214.

Discussion: M 1–1:50PM in CENTR 109.

Staff:

POSITION	NAME	E-MAIL
Instructor	Mihir Bellare	mihir@cs
TA	Cynthia Bailey Lee	clbailey@cs
TA	Saurabh Panjwani	spanjwan@cs
TA	Geoffrey Romer	gmromer@cs

Course Web Page: <http://www-cse.ucsd.edu/users/mihir/cse105/>. Problem sets, problem set solutions and quiz solutions will be available on the course web page, stored as postscript and/or pdf files. It is your responsibility to configure your computing environment to use the web page. This is the *only* way to get this material.

Class Mailing List: I send out announcements and corrections on the class mailing list. Please add yourself to this as soon as possible by going to <https://www.cse.ucsd.edu/mailman/listinfo/cse105> and following the instructions there. Note you will receive a confirmation email and must reply to it before you are added.

Office hours: See course web page for instructor and TA office hours.

Pre-requisites: CSE 10, 11, 20, 21.

Text: “Introduction to the theory of computation” by Michael Sipser, PWS Publishing Company, 1997. Available at UCSD bookstore,

Syllabus: Finite automata, context-free languages, computability, decidability and undecidability.

Office hours, discussion and email: Make use of the staff office hours and the discussion section to ask questions about course material, homework, or grading. Avoid using email for technical questions: typically, the question is not understandable and it is much better to see someone.

Homeworks: Problems will be provided, as will their solutions, but homeworks are not to be turned in and will not be graded. Homeworks will however be discussed in the Discussion section.

Quizzes and exams: The grade is based on three quizzes and a final exam. Each quiz is 20% and the final is 40%. The class is graded on a curve. All quizzes and exams are in the lecture room. The schedule is below:

EVENT	WHEN
Quiz 1	Thursday April 15th, in lecture
Quiz 2	Thursday May 6th, in lecture
Quiz 3	Thursday May 27th, in lecture
Final Exam	Wednesday June 9th, 11:30AM, in lecture room

Quizzes and exams are closed book and notes. You should bring scratch paper and pencils or pens. Blue books are not needed: you will write everything on the provided sheets.

There are no makeup quizzes or exams under any circumstances whatsoever. The only acceptable reason to miss a quiz is that the student has a certified personal health problem at the time. For a student with such a medical excuse, arrangements will be made to shift the weight of the quiz to the final exam. A student missing the final gets a zero on it. If there is any anticipable reason for which you cannot take the final exam at the scheduled time, don't take the course.

If a student has been approved as having legitimately skipped a quiz, then the following procedure will be used in shifting the weight of the final to that quiz. If the student gets a score X on the final, a score Y will be computed as their score on the missed quiz, where Y is a function both of X and of the statistical parameters of the quiz and the final. That is, it is not necessarily true that $Y = X$; rather, the computation adjusts for the relative difficulty of the two tests as measured by the curve on these tests. (For example, if X was the class average on the final, then Y will be set to the class average on the quiz.) The function itself is complex and cannot be detailed in advance.

Solution sets: Solution sets will be posted on the web page for homeworks, quizzes and exams. You are encouraged to read them even if you got the problem right, and definitely if you did not. They tell you not only how to solve the problem but how to formulate your answers, something which influences your score.

Grading policies: Many of the problems will involve proving things. You must write clear, logical mathematical arguments. Be neat and precise. It is not (just) a question of getting the "right answer"; the number of points you get will also depend on the quality of mathematical writing.

Read through whatever you write before turning it in. Try to make sure there is an argument with a clear flow. If your paper says lots of different things, you are *not* going to get points just because one of them is right; indeed, you will get *less* points for a jumble which sort of includes something right than for something clear even if not the entire answer. Think about it from the point of view of a grader: how are you making sure that person will understand?

Write top to bottom, left to right on the page, because that is how people read. Don't scatter information all over. If you do, you can get a zero.

Be as concise as possible.

The grader is not responsible for spending lots of time to decipher your solutions. If what you write does not make sense to a grader in a small amount of time, you will be penalized. It will not help to come back later and explain what you meant. You are expected to write in such a way that what you mean is clear the first time it is read.

Grades, regrades and appeals: All quizzes are kept by instructor until the end of the quarter, and you can pick them up from him in his office until then. At the end of the quarter, the quizzes are discarded.

If you feel that you were mis-graded on a quiz, first look at the solutions which will be available via the web page. If you still feel you were mis-graded, contact the person who graded that problem, as indicated on the web page. Regrade requests on a quiz will *only be accepted prior to the next quiz, or, in the case of Quiz 3, prior to the final exam*. So look at your graded material quick; if you wait too long, it will be too late to complain.

To talk to the course staff, use their office hours. If you cannot make the office hour, make an appointment. E-mail is usually a good way to do the latter.

The final exam is not returned. If you want to look at it you must come to the CSE department next quarter during final exam return week. (The CSE department will announce the times and locations for exam review later.) At that time you can review your exam and make a written report if you have any issues with it. If there are any changes to your grade, you will be contacted.

Many students write to the instructor after receiving their final grades, requesting a meeting to discuss the grade. Don't. No such meetings will be granted. If you don't like your final grade, there is limited scope for appeal. You may review your final exam as discussed above and you can request regrading on it. Barring a grade change from such a regrade, grades will not be changed. If you simply write requesting a meeting, you may not get a reply.

Quiz and exam scores will be posted at <http://www.gradesource.com>. You will be able to see statistics and ranking. Your own scores will be identified by a secret 4 digit number that will be emailed to you after Quiz 1 is graded. The email address used for you will be the one on studentlink.

You can obtain your final grade through <https://seaborg.ucsd.edu/cgi-bin/studentlink.pl/2/students/> at whatever point in time this service makes grades available. Public posting of grades is prohibited by UCSD, so no grade sheet will be posted for the class. Neither the instructor nor the TAs are required to respond to emails or other requests for grade information. Instead, students are expected to obtain their grades directly via Studentlink.

The cutoff points for various grades will not be made public. The only information about grades that is public is the statistics on gradesource.

Academic honesty: Cheating is taken very seriously. Academic dishonesty cases are prosecuted in conjunction with your college and can result in probation or dismissal. It isn't worth it.

Something students often seem to try is to modify their graded quizzes or exams homeworks after they are returned, and then bring them back to us for regrades, thinking we won't notice that they have been modified. You would be surprised how well a grader can remember a single answer across several hundred. Students have been caught doing this and reported. Don't modify your

quizzes after they are handed back. Also don't copy from others during quizzes or exams or bring in un-allowed materials.