

# Course Missive

*Spring 2009*

## Course Staff

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|------------------------|----------|---------|---------------------|
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## Introduction

Welcome to CS 22, Introduction to Discrete Structure and Probabilty. This course is intended primarily for first-year computer science students and has no prerequisites. The course fills a core requirement for the A.B. and Sc.B. tracks in computer science, is recommended for CS 32, and is a prerequisite for CS 51 and several upper-level CS courses. From the course announcement:

Seeks to place on solid foundations the most common structures of computer science, to illustrate proof techniques, to provide the background for an introductory course in computational theory, and to introduce basic concepts of probability theory. Introduces Boolean algebras, logic, set theory, elements of algebraic structures, graph theory, combinatorics, and probability.

No prerequisites.

## Lectures

Lectures will be given by Professor Preparata TuTh at 1 PM in the Fox Auditorium of Kassar House. Course-related announcements may be made in class, and you are responsible for anything covered. You are encouraged to raise your hand to ask questions in lecture. We suggest that you write down definitions and theorems presented in class.

## Grading

Your grade for the semester is determined by your grades on individual assignments as follows. The lowest homework grade will be dropped. The following is an approximate guide to the grading breakdown,

| Type                                      | Percentage |
|---|------------|
| Homeworks (11)                            | 40 %       |
| One Midterm Exam (March 17)               | 20 %       |
| Final ( <b>TBD</b> )                      | 35 %       |
| Class Participation/Demonstrated Progress | 5 %        |

## Homework

Homework is assigned each week, and you will have one week to complete it. Homework goes out each Friday and will cover material given in lecture before that day.

All written homeworks are due Thursday at 10 pm in the CS 22 bin on the 2nd floor of the CIT.

Late homeworks will be accepted in the bin by 1:45 the Monday after the homework was due. Late homeworks will be marked down 15%.

Problems may be given partial credit. If you have the beginning of an idea, but can't come up with a complete solution or proof, explain your idea and your reasoning as far as you can. However, please do not list random facts and theorems without good reasoning.

If you believe a mistake was made in grading some of your work, you may request a regrade. To make a request, write up an explanation of why you think your work is correct, staple it to your returned homework and put it in the bin before 5 p.m. the Monday after that homework was returned. The TA who graded your problem will review your request, make the necessary changes and return the homework to the handin bin.

We will pay considerable attention to the presentation of your work. It should

be clearly written and legible. We strongly prefer that you type them - if a TA cannot read your handwriting, you won't receive credit. You may want to learn  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , a type-setting program available on the Computer Science department machines, that is especially useful for writing up mathematically-intensive documents (and you will never regret learning it). We will provide links to  $\text{\LaTeX}$  resources from the course webpage. If you would like a CS account (and do not have one through another class) for the purpose of using  $\text{\LaTeX}$  for your assignments, please mail the head TAs as soon as possible.  $\text{\LaTeX}$  is a tool that you will probably have to learn at some point if you plan on staying in computer science or math. We suggest you do it now. It's fun!

## TA Hours

TA hours will be held throughout the week in CIT 227. Temporary hours are currently posted on the course web site. Once the TAs work out their own class schedules, permanent hours will be posted. TAs will gladly help clarify homework questions, explain concepts covered in homeworks, and help with general questions about course material.

TAs are here to help you, but remember, TAs are students too. Please don't ask questions outside of official TA hours. TAs have their own classwork to do. If you feel that you can't possibly make the scheduled TA hours, please get in touch with the head TAs. If you need to speak with someone during business hours, try contacting Professor Preparata.

## Mentor System

Each student in the course will be assigned a specific TA mentor (each TA having around 10 students assigned), who will be responsible for monitoring student progress and understanding. If difficulties in understanding course concepts arise over the course of the semester, do not hesitate to contact your assigned mentor for assistance.

Students will be soon assigned to mentor in alphabetical order.

## Communication

The **course web page** is an indispensable resource you will want to take advantage of. You can find online postings of assignments, solutions, course notes, announcements, TA hours, and other miscellanea. The course web page can be found at:

<http://www.cs.brown.edu/courses/cs022/>

If you have any personal questions you can **mail the TAs** at [cs022tas@cs.brown.edu](mailto:cs022tas@cs.brown.edu). Please use good judgement when doing this and consider how urgent your problem is so that the TAs won't be swamped. In general, the TAs will read their mail daily and will respond when their schedule allows. Clarification questions on homeworks can also be directed to the TA staff via email.

If you have administrative questions, comments about the course, or have a problem with a TA, you should **mail the Head TAs** at [cs022headtas@cs.brown.edu](mailto:cs022headtas@cs.brown.edu) or show up for their hours. You can also contact Prof. Preparata at [franco@cs.brown.edu](mailto:franco@cs.brown.edu).

## Collaboration Policy

In order to help the course staff evaluate each student in CS 22 as fairly and individually as possible, we have written a homework collaboration policy by which we expect all students will abide.

You may discuss problems with your classmates. However, the presented solution must be your exclusive work. So, you are not supposed to take away notes from preliminary discussions, nor to keep collaborating (with classmates) while preparing your write-up: at this stage only consultations with course staff are in order.

## Course Materials

The required textbook for this course is *Discrete Mathematics with Applications, Third Edition* by Susan S. Epp, and is available at the Brown Bookstore.