

Computer Science 172

Discrete Structures

Fall 2009

Michael Sheard
316 Ohlendorf
x-3722
SheardM@rhodes.edu

Office Hours:
MWF 10:00 – 11:00
Th 1:30 – 3:00
or by arrangement

Textbook: Rosen, *Discrete Mathematics and Its Applications*, 6th edition

Grades

Course grades will be determined on the basis of 3 midterms, a final exam, and weekly homework assignments. All graded activities will be combined into a percentage of possible points (details available if you wish) that will be converted to a course grade on a scale that is at least as generous as the following:

95 – 100	A	80 – 82	B–	63 – 65	D+
91 – 95	A–	78 – 80	C+	< 63	D, D–, or F (depending in part on a subjective assessment of your work)
89 – 91	B+	67 – 78	C		
82 – 89	B	65 – 67	C–		

Final exam is Tuesday, December 15, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. The final will **not** be offered any other time – *please plan accordingly*.

Midterm exams are in class on Fridays, September 18, October 16, and November 13.

Homework assignments will be given almost every week, due on Friday. Late homework will not be accepted, except according to the extension policy (see back of this sheet). There will be opportunities in class to ask questions about homework. Some homework assignments of different kinds may be given later in the course.

Calculators will not be needed for the class, although they will probably be convenient from time to time.

Electronic copies

Electronic copies of many course documents and files (handouts, homework assignments, etc.) will be placed in a public folder for this course on File Server 1. (Possibly this means absolutely nothing to you at the moment. Don't worry, I will explain.) This is the **only way** that homework assignments will be distributed. You are also invited to access other documents in the folder whenever you like.

Cell phones: OFF.

(Over)

Policy on homework collaboration

Working together with other people is a great way to learn mathematics. I encourage you to work together on the homework, if you find that it helps you to learn. However, homework for this course is also graded, as part of your final course grade. Each student must write up his or her own homework solutions. By handing in homework solutions to be graded, you are promising that you took part in solving the problems, and that you are not just copying someone else's work. Handing in homework to be graded when you did not participate in solving the problems is a violation of the Honor Code.

Make-up Exams and Extensions on Assignments

Extensions on the due dates of assignments and individual re-scheduling of exams will be granted only for the following reasons:

- Serious and verifiable illness or medical emergency
- Participation in an *official* Rhodes College activity (e.g., course field trip, sports team travel)
- Religious holidays
- Major life event (such as birth, wedding, death) – your own or a close family member
- Other genuine emergency that is beyond your control

Notice that this is an extensive list. It does not, however, include situations in which the timing of an exam or assignment is simply inconvenient for you. In particular, there will be no accommodation for ordinary travel arrangements before or after college breaks.

If you wish to request an extension or re-scheduling because of a situation which can be known ahead of time, it is your responsibility to make arrangements in advance. Permission might not be given after the fact. You may be asked to make your request in writing.

In all cases, your instructor is the final judge of whether an accommodation is warranted.

About the course

Course goal: To develop an understanding of the theory and applications of some of the fundamental mathematical ideas and techniques used in computer science.

Much of modern computer science employs mathematical ideas and mathematical language to analyze important subjects in computing. This course will introduce the basic ideas which will be used in essential ways in your later study of computer science.