

CS 311: Computational Structure

Instructor

Daniel Leblanc
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Office Hours

Monday 18:30 - 20:30
and by appointment

Required Textbook

Introduction to the Theory of Computation, 3rd Ed.
Michael Sipser (2nd Edition is likely just fine)

Grading and Grading Policy

Homework	30%
Projects	15%
Midterm	25%
Final	30%

I reserve the right to make slight adjustments (up or down) to your grade to reflect your participation and effort in this course. The grading scale will be the standard one, but the mapping from raw overall course percentage to final overall course grade won't be determined until the end of the course.

Expect grading to be quite strict, as I'd like to give you as realistic an indication of your progress as possible. If you are consistently putting in solid effort, I will notice, and you will be rewarded.

Homework Policy

There will be regular assignments throughout the term that are designed to be quite challenging. Expect to invest a significant amount of time in each assignment. You may collaborate with other class members on the homework assignments. If you do so, please turn in only one solution set for the group. No more than three students per group. Do not risk being carried along by the other students in the group, as this will be detrimental to your performance on the exams. As a general rule, any group member should be able to verbally explain their solutions if called upon to do so.

No late homework will be accepted. I go over the homework solutions in class on the due date which makes late work problematic at best. *Solutions must be neat and clear, preferably typeset in \LaTeX*

Projects

There will be two small programming projects during the term. Any programming language may be used. Unlike the homework assignments these are to be done individually. Be sure to cite any external resources you use.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to obey the University Academic Integrity policy and violations will result in a zero for the work in question and a report to the Conduct Office. That being said, since group work on the assignments is encouraged it's not that easy to cheat in my course. Don't put in the effort.

FAQ

Does the material in CS 311 follow directly from the material in CS 250 and 251?

Not really. Many of the topics covered previously will be used in this class, but the material does not directly follow the earlier courses. You are expected to have a great deal more mathematical maturity in this course than what was expected of you in prior classes. CS 250 and 251 help you to develop that.

I didn't do well in CS 250 or 251, will I be ok for this class?

Almost certainly not. This is an extremely proof heavy course and discomfort with the prior material can seriously hurt your score in this course.

Can I use the second edition of the textbook?

Sure, my assignments are not taken directly from the book and the main topics remained the same between editions.