**CompSci 161 Fall 2019 Syllabus and Course Reference**

**Lecture:** TuTh 11:00 - 12:20 in PSLH 100  
You are responsible for all material and announcements covered in lecture. If you miss one, ask a classmate to fill you in on what you missed. If you are not able to attend lectures regularly, you may want to consider taking this course another quarter. You are strongly encouraged to attend discussion.

**Your instructor** is Michael Shindler, reachable by email at mikes at ics dot uci dot edu. Emails sent to course staff must be sent to this address, must come from your UCI (or ICS) email address, include your full name and ID number, and have a meaningful subject line that begins with the substring “CompSci 161” -- emails that do not conform to this will probably not be read and do not count as having been sent for purposes of the course.

**Piazza:** We have a Piazza forum. Questions that do not require the attention of any particular member of course staff should be posted on Piazza with the appropriate privacy settings and labeled with the proper folder. Course staff will not reply to any anonymous posting on Piazza. It is expected that you treat your classmates and course staff respectfully when engaging with them. Abuse of Piazza may result in a revoking of Piazza privileges or referral to appropriate authorities.

**Course announcements:** On occasion, course announcements may be sent via email to all students enrolled in the class. The announcements will be sent to your UCI email address. The instructor will aim to provide an archive of these announcements in a place to be announced later.

**Office Hours** and associated locations will be announced shortly and will be posted in a place where students can find the information easily.

*Office hours are a great time to ask questions about lecture material and the associated reading. You may also stop by to introduce yourself if you’d like, even if you don’t have a question to ask. We can also talk about topics that aren’t CompSci 161, such as future classes, future plans, questions about course planning, life in industry, graduate school, and so on.*

**Students with disabilities:** Any students who feel that they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss these specific needs. Also, contact the Disability Services Center [online](#) or by phone at (949) 824-7494 as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations, such as alternative test-taking environments or note-taking services, can be arranged for you in a timely way.
Commercial note-taking: Students are prohibited from selling (or being paid for taking) notes during this course to or by any person or commercial firm without the express written permission of the professor teaching this course. This includes, but is not limited to, a prohibition for providing notes, handouts, slides, assignment descriptions, or code to websites such as Chegg, Koofers, or CourseHero. Violations of this will be treated as a serious violation of the student code of conduct.

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas electronic video and/or audio recording is not permitted during classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities unless the student obtains permission from the instructor. If permission is granted, any distribution of the recording is prohibited. Students with specific electronic recording accommodations authorized by the Office of Disability Services do not require instructor permission; however, the instructor must be notified of any such accommodation prior to recording. Any distribution of such recordings is prohibited.

We have one required textbook: *Algorithm Design and Applications* by Michael T. Goodrich and Roberto Tamassia

The book is available in hard copy from the usual sources. It is also available online at a much cheaper rate.

Grade calculation:

- Five problem sets 2% each for 10% total
- Two mid-quarter exams First at 20%, second at 30%
- Final 40%

Letter grades will be assigned based on the aforementioned relative weights. We will neither have a straight scale nor a straight curve. Among students who pass the final exam, it is guaranteed that 90% of the available points in the class will constitute at least an A-, although the cut-line for an A- may be lower than that. Similarly, collecting at least 80% of the available points will be at least a B-, and 70% will be sufficient (but might not be necessary) for at least a C-. Students curious about the current standing are encouraged to contact the instructor to discuss this.

The only factor in your grade is demonstrated knowledge in the class, and the only reconsideration requests granted are based on marking error. Requests for a grade bump based on other reasoning, such as scholarship requirements, academic eligibility, or transfer needs, will not be considered. If you need a particular grade in I&C SCI 46, the time to consider that is early in the quarter. There is plenty of opportunity for help, practice, and credit during the semester. On a related note, there are no opportunities for extra credit. Make the most of your regular credit.
Problem sets: The homework assignments will be graded. A few notes on the grading.
- We will not grade every problem carefully. On each assignment we will do one or both of the following:
  - choose a small subset of the problems from an assignment and grade that subset; or
  - grade the assignment on a "good faith effort" basis.
  - Regrades will be handled using the GradeScope regrade feature. An announcement about the regrade policy will be made around the time the first problem set is returned.
- The homework is deliberately set to be a small portion of your grade.
- Homework is to be submitted electronically, using GradeScope. You can either typeset your homework (preferred), or do it on paper and then scan it. Illegible homework submissions may have some or all credit deducted if it poses a problem for the reader.
- For full credit, the homework must be submitted by the specified date and time. There will be a grace period of unspecified duration (typically a few hours) during which the homework may still be submitted, with a 50% penalty. Once the grace period has expired, homework will not be accepted.

Grade reconsideration requests: When problem set 1 is returned, more detail about grade reconsideration requests will be made available to you. In short, you will contact your instructor (not your TAs or the reader!) in a prescribed manner and he will look into each matter. The cut-off time to submit a reconsideration request is one week after the first attempt to return the artifact (problem set, mid-quarter exam) to you. Students who do not follow this procedure for reconsideration requests will be ineligible for any regrading, regardless of the merit of the request.

Exam Rules
All exams are expected to be individual effort. Students are not permitted to use notes, electronics of any form, or bring textbooks to the exam. On exam days, once students enter the classroom, they may not leave until explicitly dismissed by the instructor. Students for whom this presents a medical problem should consult the instructor as soon as possible and no later than one week before the exam.

Students will be assigned seating and must take the exam in that seat. Students may not open the exam booklet until explicitly told to do so by the instructor. When given the instruction to cease writing, students must immediately cease writing and close their exam booklet. It is prohibited to write any further at that point, including finishing one’s current sentence.

Failure to abide by these exam rules, or directions given by course staff during the exam, may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to a failing grade in the class.
Missed Exam Policies
If you miss a non-final exam, for an exceptional, documentable circumstance, I will assign a grade for the missed exam based on your final exam score. Note that:

- If the circumstance is something that you would have known about in advance, I need to be informed in advance.
- A work conflict is not a valid excuse for missing a midterm. If you cannot arrange for time off from work to attend the class, you should not be taking the class.

The final exam will be on Tuesday, December 10, from 10:30 am - 12:30pm. I did not choose this time. If you miss the final exam and do not have a valid reason, you will receive a score of 0 on the exam.

The following policy applies if you miss the final exam for a valid reason:

- There are only two classes of valid reasons for missing the final exam:
  - An unforeseeable emergency, such as a medical emergency. In such cases, I will ask for documentation.
  - An absence from an exam due to a foreseeable circumstance that I have approved in advance.
- A work conflict is NOT a valid reason for missing the final exam. The examination times are announced at the beginning of the quarter, so there is plenty of time to plan your work schedule.
- If you wait until after the exam to get a foreseeable excuse approved, and it is not approved, you will receive a grade of zero (0) on the exam.
- If I accept your reason for missing the final exam, at my option I may either (1) give you a makeup exam or (2) assign your grade on the basis of the remaining course work that you did not miss.
- If I give a makeup exam, I may give it less weight than announced on the course syllabus.

Academic Integrity Rules
As students in CompSci 161, you are expected to know and follow the academic integrity expectations of both the Bren school and of the University as a whole. Please take the time to review them at https://www.ics.uci.edu/ugrad/policies/#03. In addition, please consult the Academic Honesty Guide on the next page of this syllabus.
CompSci 161 Academic Honesty Guide

For items we collect to grade, it is still important to be able to seek out helpful information, but it is clearly wrong to pass off work by others as your own. Navigating these two principles can be tricky, as it is possible to enter the danger zone between them unintentionally.

To help guide you, follow this principle:

The "Kenny Loggins" Rule:
You may discuss high-level ideas, and give hints to other students regarding how to solve homework problems. Any time you seek help on, or discuss with someone else, a homework question that you have yet to solve, or any aspect of a programming assignment you have not yet finished, do not keep any written record of the discussion. Afterwards, take a 30-minute break and do something unrelated to the course (watching a 30-minute episode of your favorite cartoon show, for example). You may now return to your assignment.

This is less an ironclad rule as a guideline. It is a guideline to help you determine what is and is not appropriate collaboration and to avoid trouble from the "danger zone." Flouting the spirit of the Rule while following its letter does not excuse cases of cheating which arise. For example, it is clearly not ok to study and memorize your friend's solution, watch a cartoon for half an hour, and then write out your friend's answer from memory and submit it. The spirit of the rule includes that what you write and submit for take-home assignments must reflect your work and your understanding at the time of submission. Do not submit anything that does not reflect your understanding of the material, no matter its origin.

You are responsible for understanding what is allowed, and what is not. It is possible to violate these guidelines without being malicious, and we still are required to report this to the Office of Academic Integrity & Student Conduct.

You should never:
- Show your take-home assignment to someone else, unless getting allowable help for compile-time or run-time errors.
- Write your solutions from notes taken outside of lecture or lab section.
- Seek help on a required assignment from any source where not all respondents are subject to UC Irvine's academic honesty policy.
- Tell another student specifically how to solve part of a problem.
- Submit anything that you did not play an active role in creating.

If someone copies your work, both of you are culpable! Remember: friends that pressure you for unreasonable help are not really friends. Similarly, do not post your solutions in an open space online, even after the due date.

You should never need to get a solution elsewhere. There are plenty of allowable course resources to help you reach your own solution. Furthermore, academic dishonesty carries a penalty of F in the class, or potentially worse consequences; it isn’t worth the risk!

Lastly, if you do get substantial (but allowable) help from a classmate, cite their help on your submission by clearly stating "help from" and your classmate’s name. You must still follow other regulations here, but as long as you do these two things, you won’t get in trouble for reasonable cited help.
CompSci 161 Fall 2019 Projected Schedule

This is a *projected* schedule and is subject to change. All reading is in the textbook of Goodrich and Tamassia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Due dates</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Sep 26</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td>Sorting</td>
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<td>Oct 8</td>
<td>Sorting, searching</td>
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<td>Ch. 9</td>
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<td>Intro to Divide and Conquer</td>
<td>PS1 due (Thurs)</td>
<td>Ch. 8</td>
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<td>Divide and Conquer Algorithms</td>
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<td>Divide and Conquer Algorithms</td>
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<td>Oct 22</td>
<td>Finish D &amp; C Algorithms</td>
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<td>11.3, 11.4</td>
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<td>Exam 1</td>
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<td>Fancy recursion</td>
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<td>12.1, 12.2</td>
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<td>Dynamic Programming</td>
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<td>13.5, 12.6</td>
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<td>Nov 5</td>
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<td>12.3, 12.4</td>
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<td>PS3 due (Thurs)</td>
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<td>Exam 2</td>
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<td>Graph Funds, Dijkstra’s Algorithm</td>
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<td>Ch. 13; 14.2</td>
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<td>Nov 26</td>
<td>Greedy on Graphs</td>
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