Lectures are held MW 3:30 - 4:50 PM. Students are still responsible for the material covered in the lecture. Attendance will not be taken at lecture. The only times you are required to be available during the actual time is for the exams, which are conducted synchronously and in-person. Students should not assume that a virtual-remote option will be available at any point in the quarter.

Your instructor will try to remain available after the lecture most days, typically outside the classroom. Anything discussed after the close of that day’s lecture is not considered to have been covered, although students may ask questions about course material during this time.

If you need to reach your instructor specifically, use email. Your instructor is Michael Shindler, reachable by email at mikes at ics dot uci dot edu. Emails sent for course related purposes must be sent to this address, must come from your UCI (or ICS) email address, include your full name and ID number in the body of the email, and have a meaningful subject line that begins with the substring “CompSci 260P” -- due to your instructor’s large volume of emails, any that do not conform to this will probably not be read and do not count as having been sent for purposes of the course. Emails that should have been a wider-reaching EdStem post will get, at most, a reply indicating such. If your instructor ever tells you to email him, be sure to follow this requirement. Please do not use Canvas to send messages in any form. There is a very good chance that they won’t even be read. Please remember that email is an asynchronous method of communication, and response times will likely reflect this.

Students with disabilities: Any students who feel that they may need accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Disability Services Center online or by phone at (949) 824-7494 as soon as possible to better ensure that 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 by students is not permitted during classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities unless the student obtains express written 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.
Course announcements: On occasion, course announcements may be sent via email to all students enrolled in the class either via Canvas or via EdStem. You should adjust email settings accordingly if you do not check these sources regularly. You are considered to be aware of the announcement 24 hours after it has been sent, regardless of whether you read the alert.

Textbook; I suggest reading: *Algorithm Design and Applications*
by Michael T. Goodrich, Roberto Tamassia
The book is available in hard copy from the usual sources and online at a much cheaper rate.

Grade calculation:
- Programming Projects 40% (4 projects, 10% each)
  - Plus a warm-up worth 2%
- Mid-quarter exams 8%
  - Two at 4% each.
- Written Problem Sets 10%
- Core Topic Competency / “Final Exam” 40%, broken up as follows
  - Dynamic Programming 10%
  - Complexity 10%
  - Greedy algorithms (incl. approximations) 10%
  - Linear Programming 10%

All topics in the “Core Topic Competency” topic will come from exam questions on the topic. It is the plan to have all topics tested prior to the actual final exam, with an option to replace a score at the final exam on a topic-by-topic basis.

Before you can have any work graded in this class, you must get a perfect score on the syllabus quiz¹. You may take this quiz as many times as you would like, but anything submitted prior to earning 100% on the syllabus quiz will be erased from the gradebook. Furthermore, completing this successfully is required to be added to the system to which non-programming assignments are to be submitted and to which all grades are posted.

It is expected that you be polite in all course related interactions, whether with your instructor, TAs, or classmates. Disruptive behavior related to this course may result in a grade penalty, up to and including reduction to an F in the class, as well as referral to appropriate authorities.

Letter grades will be assigned based on the aforementioned relative weights. We will neither have a straight scale nor a straight curve. 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-. I will not know the cut-offs until after all artifacts have been graded. Students asking if the class is curved, or what the curve will be, or asking for the instructor to curve the class, will be ineligible for any adjustments to the cut-point that may otherwise benefit their classmates. If you do not know what a curve is, or why you probably don’t want to ask for one in most classes, I encourage you to read up on how a curve is different from an adjustment to grade cut points.

¹ The syllabus quiz is available at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfiVHyI7W93MptG0ERMOa3HNaHt9Pq7sb-Bn38WpnZSS2w6eQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfiVHyI7W93MptG0ERMOa3HNaHt9Pq7sb-Bn38WpnZSS2w6eQ/viewform)
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 CompSci 260P, the time to consider that is early in the quarter. There is plenty of opportunity for help, practice, and credit during the quarter. On a related note, there are no opportunities for extra credit.

For information about artifact submissions and grading policies, including grade reconsideration requests, please see the document “Artifact Submission and Grading Policies.” That document is incorporated into this syllabus by reference.

**Exam Rules:** All exams will be held synchronously in class hours. The actual time allowed for non-final exams will be 70 minutes of test-taking. For more detailed information about the exam rules, refer to the “In-Person Exam Logistics and Rules” document, which is incorporated into this syllabus by reference. You will be expected to abide by the policies in these documents during your exams.

**Missed Exam Policy:** If you need to miss an exam for any reason, and this is for reasons the instructor accepts, then we may reconsider how to calculate your grade. For reasons the student could have known about in advance, it is expected that the student contacts the instructor as soon as possible after the conflict is known. If the conflict could have been known before the exam, the instructor will not provide any relief if informed after the exam unless it would have been unreasonable to do so prior to the exam. If you need to miss an exam, or if you do miss an exam, you must email the instructor as soon as possible upon knowing this.

*This is especially important for students who might be exposed to illness, especially Covid. If you are sick, especially if you might be contagious, please let your instructor know. Please do not risk your health or that of your classmates to take an exam. I view a student coming to an exam while a reasonable person in their position would believe themselves to be contagious for a sickness to be disruptive behavior, and this will be treated as such.*

**Exam Seating** For students who have a preference for exam seating, such as if you need a desk intended for left- or right-handed students, or if you tend to ask questions during the exam, or if you want to sit in the “facial coverings required” portion of the room (in event of no campus mask mandate), please fill out this form no later than October 18:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdS7o-lZqx2u5tYMxJK_BFC8GW_1rV_Vn8C1YHeEPFcAGownw/viewform

**Academic Honesty Policy** Please see the common policy document “Academic Honesty Guide” for information about academic honesty in this course. A copy of that document is available on the course Canvas page. That document is incorporated into this syllabus by reference.
Projected Schedule
There is a projected schedule document posted. Students should read that document to make themselves aware of when homework and programming assignments are due and when exams are scheduled to happen. That projected schedule is incorporated into the syllabus by reference.

About this Document
This document is made primarily to communicate to students the plans for the quarter. If any policies in this become untenable, they may be changed. However, I promise my priority in such matters is to do right for you. Students should assume all policies are in effect unless told otherwise by the professor. It is the instructor's intent to provide maximum flexibility while maintaining the educational environment. I believe the flexibility I provide will be sufficient for most students; if your situation is such that more flexibility will better enable you to be successful with your goals for the quarter, please get in touch with the instructor as soon as you can. Information for how to contact appears later in this document.

Professor David Kay has the following language in his syllabus and I am using it here, too: 

*We're required to say that in unusual circumstances, these criteria could change. We won't make changes arbitrarily, but the world has had a lot of special circumstances lately and we'd like everyone to try to be flexible, rolling as best we can with the punches that come our way.*