Welcome to EECS/CS 281

Vital Statistics
Two Sections:
- Prof. David Chesney (morning)
  - chesneyd@umich.edu, EECS 4221
- Prof. Farnam Jahanian (afternoon)
  - farnam@umich.edu, EECS 2229

Teaching and instructional assistants:
- John (Russ) Bielawski
- Rachel Lamb
- Andrew Myrick
- Jianhui Wu

Vital Statistics
- Prerequisites: EECS 203 and 280, strictly enforced
- Knowledge of discrete math, C++ programming and familiarity with Unix
- Textbook: “Data Structures and Algorithms in C++” by Goodrich, Tamassia and Mount
- You can go to either (both) lectures. Best to pick one and attend it regularly.
- Web Site and Forum: Please visit the web site and read the forum regularly for important course-related announcements
What is this course about?

- Data structures
- Algorithms
- Performance analysis

When Solving Problems:
- Must have an understanding of fundamental techniques
- Formulate an abstract specification
- Examine multiple representations to implement the specification
- Time and space efficient considerations
- Improve solution

Grading Policy

- Homework assignments 10%
- 3 Programming Projects 40%
- Midterm Exam 25%
- Final Exam 25%

- “Gray Area” --- Demonstrated improvement in exam performance or exceptional class participation may improve your letter grade

- C- and D+ will not be given in this course

Re-grade Policy

- Arithmetic errors can be made in person by your GSI.
- All other re-grade requests must be done in writing; must explain technical reasons or the re-grade.
- Requests must be submitted within 5 working days.
- The entire work may be re-graded.
Homework Assignments

- 4 homework assignments – important for preparation for the exams
- Typically due in hard copy in the 281 lockbox in EECS 2420
- The lowest homework score will be dropped, but late homework assignments will not be accepted after due date.

Course Projects

- 3 programming projects
- Project 1 will individual effort
- Projects 2 and 3 will be in groups of 3 students – an important learning experience
- Group are formed by students – an important learning experience
- Use the course forum and after class opportunity to form groups
- All group dynamics issues (both sections) to be handled by Prof. Jahanian
- Quitting, being fired, getting divorced!
  - Document via email, discuss with Prof. Jahanian as soon as you see trouble with your group or a group member
  - The course instructors assign an appropriate grade to a fired group member

Project Grading

- 3 to 4 weeks for each project
- Late projects will receive a 10% penalty per day; a weekend counts as a single late day; no project will be accepted after 3 late days.
- All project to be written in C++
- Project 2 and 3 must run on CAEN’s Solaris g++ 3.3
- Each group will fill out a “group” evaluation at the end of each project – signed by all group members
- Individual evaluations may be turned in for private dissention of an individual
Project Grading

- Code compiles ☺
- Functional correctness
- Algorithm is efficient
- Principles and practices:
  - Code is readable and well-documented.
  - Implementation is efficient, e.g., no unnecessary copying, no loop invariant statement in the loop
  - Appropriate use of data structures
- Documentation of solution
- Group and individual evaluations

Exams

- Two joint exam dates:
  - Midterm
    - Thursday October 21 from 7:30-9:00pm
  - Final exam
    - Thursday December 16 from 8:00-10:00am
- If you need additional to complete an exam, please speak with one of the instructors asap

Policy on Collaboration and Cheating

PLEASE DO NOT CROSS THE LINE!

office hours or send email to schedule an appointment

If in doubt, PLEASE ASK. We are here to provide a nurturing learning environment for everyone.