Theory of Computation: COSC 6356
Department of computing Sciences
Fall 2019

A. COURSE INFORMATION

Course number/section: COSC 6356.001
Class meeting time: MW 05:30 PM - 06:45 PM
Class location: CS-115
Course Website: bb9.tamucc.edu

B. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Mohammed Yassine Belkhouche
Office location: CI-305
Office hours: TR 01:30 PM - 03:00 PM
MW 02:00 PM – 03:00 PM
Telephone: 361-825-3492
e-mail: mohammed.belkhouche@tamucc.edu
Appointments: By e-mail

C. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Catalog Course Description:
An introduction to theoretical foundations of modern computing. Topics include finite state
machine concepts, formal grammars, and basic computability concepts

Extended Course Description:
This course introduces the common fundamental properties and/or limitations of digital
computer systems in general. The course in not concerned with the specifics of any particular
hardware or software. The course will address questions such as:

1. What are some relevant computational models for digital computation?
2. What are the capabilities and limitations of some of these models?
3. What is the time complexity of a particular solution to some problem?

D. PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITES

Prerequisites:
COSC 5321: Data Structures and MATH 2305: Discrete Mathematics I
Corequisites:
None.

E. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S), READINGS AND SUPPLIES

Required Textbook(s):
13: 978-1133187790
Optional Textbook(s) or Other References:
None.

Supplies
None.

**F. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT**

Assessment is a process used by instructors to help improve learning. Assessment is essential for effective learning because it provides feedback to both students and instructors. A critical step in this process is making clear the course’s student learning outcomes that describe what students are expected to learn to be successful in the course. The student learning outcomes for this course are listed below. By collecting data and sharing it with students on how well they are accomplishing these learning outcomes students can more efficiently and effectively focus their learning efforts. This information can also help instructors identify challenging areas for students and adjust their teaching approach to facilitate learning.

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of a framework for the theoretical analysis of relevant models of digital computation.
2. Perform detailed analysis concerning the capabilities of selected computational models.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of some general time-complexity characteristics of selected problems when solved using our models of computation.

Assessment of objectives will be conducted through exams and homework assignments.

**G. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES**

This is a difficult course that demands all students attend all classes! Regular completion of all reading, homework, and other outside assignments, are absolutely essential for success in this course.

**H. MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

Your course grade will be decided on your performance in the homework assignments, quizzes, and three exams. The distribution of points is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>% of FINAL GRADE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework/Programming Assignments</td>
<td>30</td>
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**Grading scale:** A: 100-90, B: 89-80, C: 79-70, D: 69-60, and F: 59-0.
Homework Assignments: Approximately 7-10 homework/programming assignments will be given. No late homework assignments will be accepted. Partial credit will be given for incomplete assignments.

Quizzes: Approximately 4-6 pop-up quizzes (dropping one or two). Each quiz is about 10 minutes long.

Exams: The first exam will be given on October 02, 2019, the second exam will be given on November 04, 2019 during the scheduled class time, and the final exam will be given on December 09, 2019 from 04:30 PM - 07:00 PM.

I. COURSE CONTENT/SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>CHAPTER(S)</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Automata, Computability, and Complexity</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mathematical Notions and Terminology</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Definitions, Theorems, and Proofs</td>
<td>Chapter 0</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Types of Proof</td>
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<td>Finite Automata</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Finite Automata</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nondeterminism</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Regular Expressions</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Non-regular Languages</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Non-regular Languages</td>
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<td>Context-free Grammars</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Chapter 2</td>
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<td>Exam 1:</td>
<td>Wednesday, October 02, 2019</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Pushdown Automata</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Non-context-free Languages</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Turing Machines</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Turing Machines</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Variants of Turing Machines</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>A Definition of Algorithm</td>
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<td>Chapter 3</td>
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<td>Exam 2:</td>
<td>Monday, November 04, 2019</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Decidable Languages</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Undecidability</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Measuring Complexity</td>
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<td>Week 13</td>
<td>The Class P</td>
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<td>Week 14</td>
<td>The Class NP</td>
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<td>Week 15</td>
<td>NP-completeness</td>
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<td>Week 16</td>
<td>Additional NP-complete Problems</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
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Note: Changes in this course schedule may be necessary and will be announced to the class by the Instructor. The assignments and exams shown are directly related to the Student Learning Outcomes described in Section F.

J. COURSE POLICIES
Attendance/Tardiness:
You must attend all classes and labs. While in class or lab attendance will not directly affect the grade, you are responsible for any materials covered or handed out or announcements made for the tests and assignments in your absence. Records of your attendance will be maintained and reported to the university. Students found missing classes or labs without the instructor’s permission will be automatically withdrawn from the course.

Late Work and Make-up Exams:
There is a penalty for late submissions. Late assignments will be counted 25% off for each day after the due time. 100% penalty (i.e. no credit) if submitted after 4 days. If you have not completed your assignment by the due date, you should submit the work you have done for partial credit. No work will be accepted once the graded work has been returned or the solution has been disclosed to the class, except for unusual circumstances which the instructor feels reasonable. Note that any kind of hardware or software failure or machine unavailability in the lab does not merit an extension on the assignment.

Extra Credit
If any extra-credit work is assigned, it will be discussed in class.

Cell Phone Use:
Please refrain from using electronic devices during class, as it is distracting to not only you, but also to your instructor and peers. Silence your phones and put them away so you are not tempted to stray off task.

Laptop Use:
Laptops, Tablets cannot be used in the class.

Food in Class:
No food in the class or labs.

Missed Exam:
In the event, if you cannot attend the class to take the exam due to some emergency or some unavoidable situation (such as serious illness, death in the family, participation in university sports, religious observations, and so on) you must notify me as soon as possible before the exam and also you must validate your absence by providing me a document (e.g., with a letter from your doctor). Once your cause is validated a make-up exam will be given.

Participation:
Active involvement in class activities and discussions is strongly encouraged.

Others:
You are expected to avoid all forms of academic dishonesty as defined in Catalog. In
addition, students are expected to behave in an ethical manner in all class activities. If you feel uncertain about a particular activity, please speak to me BEFORE problems arise. Ethical behavior is a requirement for passing this course. All work submitted for grading must be the student's own work. Plagiarism will result in a score of 0 (zero) for the work or dismissal from the course and the Dean of Students office will be notified. No copying from another student's work, of any class, is allowed. It is the student's duty to allow no one to copy his or her work. Anyone found cheating and/or copying, in the exams or assignments, in the instructor's opinion, will receive an automatic F for the course.

K. COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

- Academic Integrity (University)
  University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a failing grade.

- Classroom/Professional Behavior
  Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

- Statement of Civility
  Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high-quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

- Deadline for Dropping a Course with a Grade of W (University)
  I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you
**decide to drop this course.** Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Please consult the Academic Calendar (http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/calendar/) for the last day to drop a course.

- **Grade Appeals (College of Science and Engineering)**
  As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules website at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html, and the College of Science and Engineering Grade Appeals webpage at http://sci.tamucc.edu/students/GradeAppeal.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the chair or director of the appropriate department or school, the Office of the College of Science and Engineering Dean, or the Office of the Provost.

- **Disability Services**
  The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call (361) 825-5816 or visit Disability Services in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

  If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

  http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/

- **Statement of Academic Continuity**
  In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be
operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

L. OTHER INFORMATION

- Academic Advising
  The College of Science & Engineering requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. Meetings are by appointment only; advisors do not take walk-ins. Please call or stop by the Advising Center to check availability and schedule an appointment. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Center for Instruction 350 or can be reached at (361) 825-3928.

GENERAL DISCLAIMER

I reserve the right to modify the information, schedule, assignments, deadlines, and course policies in this syllabus if and when necessary. I will announce such changes in a timely manner during regularly scheduled lecture periods.