CMPS 201 Syllabus and Information: Fall 2013

I am teaching 201 as a "theory-course". This means that there is **no programming**. On the other hand, there is **a lot of proof writing** and the course is homework-heavy.

Main text (required): Algorithm Design, by Kleinberg and Tardos.

Course Work: The course will be taught like a math course, not like a programming course. You will have regular written assignments, two in-class midterms, and a final examination. Regarding the weight of homework towards you final grade you get to **choose** between one of the following two schemes:

| Default | | Homework-heavy | |
|----------------|----|----------------|----|
| Homeworks | 15 | Homeworks | 40 |
| First Midterm | 15 | First Midterm | 15 |
| Second Midterm | 15 | Second Midterm | 15 |
| Final Exam | 55 | Final Exam | 30 |

Indicate your choice on the front page of the **first** assignment. **This choice will be final.** If you don't indicate a choice, the Default scheme will apply. I strongly encourage you to take the homework-heavy option, especially if exams tend to stress you out and you could use a regular stimulus against slacking. You will also learn more.

Important Rule: If you chose the Homework-heavy option you will be subject to the following rule. On each of the exams there will be one question from a past homework. For that question, your exam-answer should be at least 75% as good as your homework-answer (allowances will be made for quality of presentation due to the time-constraints). If that's not the case, you will get a score of 0 for that question on the exam and the homework *and you will be reverted to the Default grading scheme*.

I will give an incomplete grade only if there has been a medical/family emergency **and** the student has been doing at least average work.

Assignments: Do not cheat.

Remember: if you don't cheat, you might lower your grade; if you do cheat you will lower yourself.

The Computer Science Department of UCSC has a zero tolerance policy for any incident of academic dishonesty. If cheating occurs, consequences within the context of the course may range from getting zero on a particular assignment, to failing the course. Every case of academic dishonesty will be referred to the students college Provost, who sets in motion an official disciplinary process. Cheating in any part of the course may lead to failing the course and suspension or dismissal from the university.

What is cheating? In short, it is presenting someone else's work as your own. Examples would include copying another student's written homework assignment, or allowing your own work to be copied. Although you may discuss problems with fellow students, use the following rule of thumb:

What you turn in as your homework should be something that you could reproduce given nothing but pen, paper and a copy of the textbook.

And, certainly, legitimate collaboration ends when you "lend", "borrow", or "trade" written solutions to problems, or in any way share in the act of writing your answers. When you do collaborate (legitimately) or receive help from anyone, you must credit them by placing their name(s) at the top of your paper. It really is OK and will not cost you grades.