

Introduction to COMP 550

- My name
- This is COMP 550, Algorithms and Analysis
- Pass out sign-up sheet
- Ask who is sophomore etc. and what majors people have
- Show course web page, go over links and syllabus
- Accessible from my home page or from Sakai
- The course is on Sakai. Check your grades often to make sure nothing has been missed that you turned in. Especially homeworks turned in early or late or by email tend to get lost; check for these soon.
- It's too late to tell me about a homework that has not been recorded on Sakai or a problem in grading during exam week. This should be done within a week or two after the assignment is returned or the exam is given.
- The TA's will keep all unreturned homework and exams, so go to them for old homework and exams.
- Exams and quizzes are on Sakai, with written backup. Be sure to sign up for the alternate wireless system in case the campus wireless network goes down. You are responsible for whatever you type into Sakai, even if it's not what you intended.
- The course is on Piazza.
- The slides are on line.
 - Sometimes I mention things that are not on the slides
 - Sometimes I don't emphasize things that are on the slides
- The syllabus is on line; go over it.
- I plan to have no office hours this semester.
- Quizzes
 - About seven quizzes, in total contribute one percent to the grade
 - Some hard problems in the quizzes
 - Help you to learn
 - Exam questions may come from the quizzes
 - Help me to know how you are doing
- There are some practice exams on the course web page, too.

- Challenge problems
 - Maybe 4 or 5 during the semester, maybe none
 - Extra credit
 - Harder problems; it's not expected that most people will be able to solve them
 - Challenge problems are each worth a third of a percent of the course grade.
- Extra credit problems on the exams
- Homework
 - Homework is found on the course web page.
 - Homework will be turned in using Gradescope.
 - You can tell by the due date when a homework has been assigned.
 - Be sure to refresh your browser or you may get an old copy
 - Often will let you work in groups of 2 to 4 people
 - The group may turn in just one paper with everyone's names on it
 - This facilitates learning and collaboration
 - It also reduces the work of the grader
 - However people in different groups may not collaborate with each other.
 - Also be sure that everyone's name is on the paper when it is first turned in, else someone will not get credit for it.
 - One person should be chosen as the group leader and his or her name should be underlined
 - If you are turning in the homework late and have an excuse, write the excuse at the top of the first page. We may not recall your circumstances even if you send email.
- Class participation
 - When I ask a question frequently I will let you talk to your neighbor about the question before answering it.
 - It would be good to let you work in groups of maybe 5 people but the seating arrangement does not permit it.
 - This way even if you are not willing to speak up in class, you can at least bounce ideas off of other students and learn something.
 - Talking in class is not always a bad thing.
- If I see you in the hall and don't say hello it doesn't mean anything. I'm teaching 2 classes and both are very large. I probably won't even notice many of you. I apologize for this.
- Some may not need to come to class
 - You will miss the quizzes
 - You will miss the class discussion

- You will probably end up learning less and with a lower grade
- However some may be able to do this and not suffer from it.
- Send email to the TA's instead of to me whenever possible; they may then communicate with me. For example,
 - If a grade for a homework or exam does not appear on Sakai
 - If Sakai did not grade an exam or quiz properly
 - If you did not get a homework or exam back
 - If you have a question about how a homework was graded
 - If you have an excuse for a late homework
 - If you are submitting a homework by email
 - If you have a question about something in the course material related to an upcoming homework or exam
 - If you can't take the exam at the regular time and need to arrange another time

However, if the TA's don't respond or if you need a response in less than 24 hours you can email me.

- Don't believe everything you read on the internet about me or my classes. It's not always true.
- My goal is for you to learn the maximum amount with the least busy work and the least effort.
- Tips for getting a good grade:
 - Come to class
 - Do the homework
 - Study all through the semester, not just before exams