Computer Science 243 – Discrete Structures  
Syllabus – Spring 2015

Instructor: Robin M. Givens, McGl 108, rmgivens@cs.wm.edu  
Lectures: T+Th 3:30-4:50, McGl 020  
Office hours: T+W 1:00-3:00  
Teaching assistant: Carlos Bernal-Cardenas, McGl 101C, cebernalcarden@email.wm.edu  
TA’s office hours: M 1:00-2:00  
Course web page: http://www.cs.wm.edu/~rmgivens/cs243  
Prerequisites: CS141 (Computational Problem Solving) or its AP equivalent.

Course description:
We will cover the following topics

- Logic and proofs
- Sets and functions
- Sequences and sums
- Algorithms and complexity
- Induction and recursion
- Counting and probability
- Graphs and trees

Classroom experience:
The use of laptops and other electronic devices is not permitted. Please come to class prepared with a writing utensil and paper. If you need to use an electronic device, you may step outside the classroom.

Homework assignments:
There will be 12 homework assignments accounting for 40% of your final grade.

- **Start right away:** It will benefit you to start homework as soon as possible. You may need to let some problems stew or attempt problems a few times. Don’t expect to start and complete assignments the night before.
- **LaTeX your work:** You should write proofs and solutions in a readable and elegant way. To aid your writing, you are required to prepare your homework in LaTeX. LaTeX is available on every CS Department system and can be installed on personal computers. I will provide your homework problems in LaTeX so you can begin to learn particular formatting, and there are many resources online you should use. You should include each homework problem written out in full before your answer. You should include each homework problem written out in full before your answer. Xfig is recommended for figures.
- **Empty hand policy + Honor Code:** You may discuss assignments with other students currently in this class, the TA, and the instructor, but all work must be in your own words. You should follow the empty hand policy with any collaboration with other students: you can discuss any part of the homework but you cannot keep any record of the discussion (paper or electronic). Any copied work will not receive credit and is an Honor Code violation.
- **Giving credit:** If you collaborate with another student, you must list them as a collaborator, either for the entire homework or on individual problems. You may consult other sources, but you must list all
websites and published material beyond the textbook. Again, copied work will not receive credit and is an Honor Code violation.

- **No late assignments**: Homework is due at the beginning of class (3:30pm) on the due date. Late assignments will not be accepted without an approved excuse such as a doctor’s note or emergent/departmental travel.

**In-class examinations:**
Exams are open-textbook and open-notes. No electronic devices

- **Midterm**: The midterm will be during class on March 19th in McGl 020 and will include all material covered before Spring Break.
- **Final**: The final is scheduled 2pm-5pm on May 12th in McGl 020 and will include all material covered during the semester.

**Grading Policy:**
Grades will be based on homework (40%), the midterm (20%) and the final (40%). Final letter grades will be given based on the standard scale (i.e., 90 or above: A; 80-89: B; 70-79: C; 60-69: D; and below 60: F). Grades may be curved at my discretion.

**Disability:**
If you have a disability that may effect your participation in this course and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible.

Last modified: January 25, 2015