Instructor Information

Instructor(s):
Alexandra Stefan

Office Number:
ERB 625

Office Telephone Number:
817-272-3785 (CSE Department phone number)

Email Address:
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Faculty Profile:
http://vlm1.uta.edu/~alex/

Office Hours:
MoWe 2:30pm-3pm, TuTh 12:30-1:30, and by appointment

Course Information

Section Information:
CSE 2320-002

Time and Place of Class Meetings:
GACB 103, TuTh 11am - 12:20pm

Description of Course Content:
Design and analysis of algorithms with an emphasis on data structures. Approaches to analyzing lower bounds on problems and upper bounds on algorithms. Classical algorithm design techniques including algorithms for sorting, searching, and other operations on data structures such as hash tables, trees, graphs, strings, and advanced data structures, dynamic programming and greedy approaches.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Understanding of classic approaches to algorithm design (e.g. dynamic programming, greedy methods).
- Understanding of particular algorithms and data structures that have wide applicability.
- Being able to compare and choose the best algorithm that solves the problem under specific constraints (e.g. space or time limitation).
- Understanding of basic algorithm analysis concepts by applying math skills to worst-case and expected time using recurrences and asymptotic notation.
- Constructing counterexamples (both the data and ‘running’ the algorithm on that data) that show that an algorithm does not have a certain property (e.g. stable sort).
- Improved programming skills - especially on pointers, data structures, recursion, and graphs.
  - In particular, I require code with no memory errors. We will use Valgrind (already available on the Omega server) to check for these errors.

Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:


Prerequisites:
All students are expected to have passed the courses *Intermediate Programming* (CSE 1320), and *Discrete Structures* (CSE 2315).

Other Requirements:
Students are expected to know how to use the omega server and to write C programs that run on this server. Familiarity with a user-friendly C-debugger is required: students will need to, and should use a good debugger when coding.

Grading Information

Make-up Exams:
Make-up exams or any other additional work towards "improving ones grade" will not be offered.

Grading and major Assignments and examinations:
Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester which Canvas facilitates, and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels; see “Student Support Services,” below.
See the [Final Grade Reports Schedule](#) for dates and deadlines related to grades.

| 25% | Homework (about 9 assignments) with theoretical and programming problems |
| 75% | Three exams with equal weight (two midterms and a final). Exams are not cumulative. |

Homework and Exam grading policy:
- Restroom breaks during an exam: unless a medical note is provided, there will be a 2 point penalty per minute.
- Each exam answer must be justified, unless otherwise specified or a multiple choice question. (Note that even some multiple choice questions may have an explicit request for a justification)
- A completely wrong justification may result in a negative score. For example, if a question is worth 8 points and the justification is wrong, the grade for that question may be -1 meaning that not only you do not get any points for that question, but you lost one extra point. (This policy is intended to prevent students from guessing, or just ‘writing stuff’ when they have no idea about the topic. It is NOT intended to penalize partially correct answers.)
- Problems (in homework and exam) must be solved with the specific methods covered in class, unless prior permission from the instructor is granted to use a different method. The reason is that I may be testing on the method, not on the problem.

Any request for re-grading (for an assignment or midterm exam) must be made within 5 days of receipt of that grade. In case of regrading, the instructor reserves the right to regrade the whole assignment or exam.
Requests of re-grading the final exam must be done within 1 day of receipt of that grade.

The exams are NOT cumulative, except in cases where a previous topic is part of the new topic and some core concepts such as time complexity, or sorting algorithms basics.

Students must take the exam with their section.
The final grade will ideally be assigned based on the standard grading scheme: \( \leq 90(A) \), \( \leq 80(B) \), \( \leq 70(C) \), \( \leq 60(D) \). The instructor reserves the right to lower these thresholds, based on the distribution of final percentages. Sample past cutoffs: \( \leq 82(A) \), \( \leq 70(B) \), \( \leq 59(C) \), \( \leq 48(D) \).

IMPORTANT: It should be clear to every student that course grades will depend EXCLUSIVELY on the above grading criteria. Students should not request nor expect any other factor to be considered in computing the course grade. For example, factors that will NOT be considered are: need of a better grade to keep financial aid, to stay in the program, or to graduate. Students are expected to carefully monitor their own performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if they are concerned about their performance and the course grade that they will earn.

**Coding requirements:**
Global, external or static variables are NOT allowed in any code (in homework, quiz or exam) in this class. Using such variables will result in losing 50%-100% of the credit for that problem.

Submitted homework programs must run on omega. Note that your program may run on your machine, and still CRASH on omega. Programs that do not compile receive 0 credit. Programs that crash receive a penalty of 20%-100%. We will test your programs with the data provided as an example AND WITH OTHER test files. You are responsible for testing your programs thoroughly. Simpler/smaller programs may not receive partial credit.

**Expectations for Out-of-Class Study:**
Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend an additional **12 hours** per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

Before coming to class, students should have reviewed and understood the previous lecture especially in cases where the same topic is continued or the topics are related.

**Grade Grievances:**
Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current University Catalog. See [Undergraduate Grading Policies](#) and [Student Complaints](#).

**Academic Integrity:**
Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

> I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.
>
> I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

The penalty for cheating or collusion in a homework or exam is a grade of 0 (for the entire exam or homework).

In cases of collusion, ALL students involved are reported to the Office of Student Conduct (even if one admits that he copied after the other). I simply report the case to this office and they will investigate and make a final decision.

By default, the homework for this class is individual (no group projects) unless otherwise stated in the assignment.
You are allowed (and encouraged) to discuss with classmates the homework requirements, but NOT specifics of the homework solution. You can practice and review Java concepts covered in class, programs covered in class, and other practice problems that are NOT part of the homework. You are NOT allowed to work as a team and develop together the homework solution (or a significant/critical part of it), or let another class mate see or have access to your code. You should not store your code or homework solutions on any public, unsecure domain such as GitHub (I reported a case involving code posted on GitHub). You can use password protected cloud services such as Google Drive. Note that if you make your solutions available to others in such a way, and another student copies your solution, you will be reported together with the student who used your solution.

During exams, please look only at your page or the board and do not wear a hat. If you tend to look around, or somehow look aside, take a seat such that you will not be looking towards any another student(s).

If needed, I will take the following actions during an exam:
- Take pictures of the classroom in order to document the seating arrangements. (Let me know if you do not want your picture taken.)
- Move to the front row any student that seems to look around. (This is a subjective decision.) If you were moved for one exam, you will have to stay in the front row for the following exams as well.
- Mark an exam sheet if the student did something that was not allowed (e.g. look in notes in a closed book exam).

I may report students for cheating in an exam, if I find suspiciously similar answers for students who sat next to each other.

Please do not hesitate to talk to me regarding any concerns you may have.

Course Schedule

See the course schedule at: http://vlm1.uta.edu/~alex/courses/2320/Schedule_CSE2320.pdf

Institution Information

UTA students are encouraged to review the below institutional policies and informational sections and reach out to the specific office with any questions. To view this institutional information, please visit the Institutional Information page (http://www.uta.edu/provost/administrative-forms/course-syllabus/index.php) which includes the following policies among others:
- Drop Policy
- Disability Accommodations
- Title IX Policy
- Academic Integrity
- Student Feedback Survey
- Final Exam Schedule

Additional Information

Attendance:
At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator of student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, “I may take attendance sporadically” but I will not factor it
into the grade. However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients “begin attendance in a course.” UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report must the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Canvas. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:**
Should we experience an emergency event that requires evacuation of the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit (the left and right doors both lead to nearby exits). When exiting the building during an emergency, do not take an elevator but use the stairwells instead. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

You can subscribe to the MavAlert system at [Emergency Communication System](https://www.uta.edu/). It will send information in case of an emergency to your cell phone or email account.

**Student Success Programs:**
UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring by appointment, drop-in tutoring, etutoring, supplemental instruction, mentoring (time management, study skills, etc.), success coaching, TRIO Student Support Services, and student success workshops. For additional information, please email resources@uta.edu, or view the [Maverick Resources](https://www.uta.edu/ideas/) website.

The [IDEAS Center](https://www.uta.edu/ideas/) (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers FREE tutoring and mentoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. Students can drop in or check the schedule of available peer tutors at www.uta.edu/IDEAS, or call (817) 272-6593.

Supplemental Instruction (SI) leader – to be determined if there will be an SI leader for this class.

**The English Writing Center (411LIBR):**
The Writing Center offers FREE tutoring in 15-, 30-, 45-, and 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Register and make appointments online at the Writing Center (https://uta.mywconline.com). Classroom visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students and faculty are also available. Please see [Writing Center: OWL](https://uta.mywconline.com) for detailed information on all our programs and services.

The Library’s 2nd floor [Academic Plaza](http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza) offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the library’s hours of operation.

**Librarian to Contact:**
Each academic unit has access to [Librarians by Academic Subject](https://library.uta.edu/librarian-by-subject) that can assist students with research projects, tutorials on plagiarism and citation references as well as support with databases and course reserves.

**Emergency Phone Numbers**

In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at 817-272-3003 (non-campus phone), 2-3003 (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381.

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**Library Information**
Research or General Library Help
Ask for Help
- Academic Plaza Consultation Services (library.uta.edu/academic-plaza)
- Ask Us (ask.uta.edu/)
- Research Coaches (http://libguides.uta.edu/researchcoach)

Resources
- Library Tutorials (library.uta.edu/how-to)
- Subject and Course Research Guides (libguides.uta.edu)
- Librarians by Subject (library.uta.edu/subject-librarians)
- A to Z List of Library Databases (libguides.uta.edu/az.php)
- Course Reserves (https://uta.summon.serialssolutions.com/#!/course_reserves)
- Study Room Reservations (openroom.uta.edu/)

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