COSC 6320 Syllabus

August 10, 2021

- Course Title: Data Structures and Algorithms

- Course Number: COSC 6320, Fall 2021

- Section Number: 19064

- Instructor: Stephen Huang, pgh209, Email: shuang at cs.uh.edu, 713-743-3338

- Class Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 2:30 pm -4:00 pm.

- Class Room: S-114, Science Building

- Office Hours: (All office hours are by Zoom only. Subject to change, check the course website for cancelations)
    Monday, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
    Tuesday: 11:00 am – 12:00 Noon
    Wednesday, 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
    Tuesday: 11:00 am – 12:00 Noon
    + By appointments

- Course Website: http://www.cs.uh.edu/~acl/cs6320/. This is the primary source of information for the class. To avoid inconsistency of having multiple copies, the instructor uses the website as the primary source of information. Do not use Teams or Blackboard to contact the instructor. The only time you may need to access the Blackboard are: (1) to submit assignment, and (2) to take an online test.

- Prerequisites: COSC 2320 or COSC 6306

- Description: Mathematical techniques for algorithm analysis; advanced data structures including sets, graphs, tree structures, hashing; algorithm design techniques including dynamic programming, greedy methods, divide-and-conquer; selected classes of algorithms; and lower bounds

- Textbooks and References

- Grading:

    - Homework Assignments/Projects ~30%,
    - Midterm Test and Final Exam. ~70%.

Course Delivery Formats and Final Exams

This course is being offered in the Face-to-Face format, which utilizes pre-COVID-19 classroom seating capacities. The final classroom seating capacities may change as we receive updated advice from health experts. Lectures and participation occur in person and in real-time. The final exam for this course will be given per the University schedule.

The University has decided to implement a Soft Opening to reduce the classroom density for the first two weeks of the semester. Students will be divided into two groups, one for the Monday classes and one for the Wednesday classes. Group 1 (Monday): students whose last name begins with A-N; Group 2 (Wednesday): students whose last name begins with O-Z.

Zoom Meeting

The instructor has set up a Zoom meeting for this class, "CS6320 Class," for the following reasons. If the University decides to switch back to online teaching, this will be the one to use. To provide security for the Zoom meeting, the University has activated the authentication requirement. You will be asked to provide **authentication** to join: UH MS 365 **cougarnet.uh.edu**. Students are encouraged to try the Zoom meeting at the beginning of the semester during office hours. The following link is also used for office hours.

Join Zoom Meeting: https://uh-edu-cougarnet.zoom.us/j/98601654418

Office Hours

Zoom-Only office hours are available online using the meeting link above. Students may request Zoom meetings in private in advance. Otherwise, all students will be admitted to the Zoom meeting and participate in the discussion. Occasionally, the instructor has other commitment during the published office hours. Please check the course website on office hour updates. If you must meet with the instructor in person, please send a request by email.

Face Covering Policy

To reduce the spread of COVID-19, the University strongly encourages everyone (vaccinated or not) to wear face coverings indoors on campus, including classrooms for both faculty and students.

Presence in Class

Your presence in class each session means that you:

- Are NOT exhibiting any Coronavirus Symptoms that makes you think that you may have COVID-19
- Have NOT tested positive or been diagnosed for COVID-19
- Have NOT knowingly been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or suspected/presumed COVID-19

If you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms that are not clearly related to a pre-existing medical condition, do not come to class. Please see Student Protocols for what to do if you experience symptoms and Potential Exposure to Coronavirus for what to do if you have potentially been exposed to COVID-19. Consult the (Graduate Excused Absence Policy) for information regarding excused absences due to medical reasons.

COVID-19 Information

Students are encouraged to visit the University's COVID-19 website for important information, including on-campus testing, vaccines, diagnosis and symptom protocols, campus cleaning and safety practices, report forms, and positive cases on campus. Please check the website throughout the semester for updates.

Vaccinations

Data suggests that vaccination remains the best intervention for reliable protection against COVID-19. Students are asked to familiarize themselves with pertinent vaccine information, consult with their health care provider. The University strongly encourages all students, faculty, and staff to be vaccinated.

Reasonable Academic Adjustments/Auxiliary Aids

The University of Houston complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, pertaining to the provision of reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids for disabled students. In accordance with Section 504 and ADA guidelines, UH strives to provide reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids to students who request and require them. If you believe that you have a disability requiring an academic adjustments/auxiliary aid, please contact [Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center](#).

Excused Absence Policy

Regular class attendance, participation, and engagement in coursework are important contributors to student success. Absences may be excused as provided in the University of Houston Undergraduate Excused Absence Policy and Graduate Excused Absence Policy for reasons including: medical illness of student or close relative, death of a close family member, legal or government proceeding that a student is obligated to attend, recognized professional and educational activities where the student is presenting, and University-sponsored activity or athletic competition. Under these policies, students with excused absences will be provided with an opportunity to make up any quiz, exam or other work that contributes to the course grade or a satisfactory alternative. Please read the full policy for details regarding reasons for excused absences, the approval process, and extended absences. Additional policies address absences related to [military service](#), [religious holy days](#), [pregnancy and related conditions](#), and [disability](#).

Recording of Class

Students may not record all or part of class, livestream all or part of class, or make/distribute screen captures, without advanced written consent of the instructor. If you have or think you may have a disability such that you need to record class-related activities, please contact the Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center. If you have an accommodation to record class-related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. Classes may be recorded by the instructor. Students may use instructor's recordings for their own studying and notetaking. Instructor's recordings are not authorized to be shared with anyone without the prior written approval of the instructor. Failure to comply with requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Students Office and may result in disciplinary action.

Syllabus Changes

Due to the changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, please note that the instructor may need to make modifications to the course syllabus and may do so at any time. Notice of such changes will be announced as quickly as possible through the course website and/or email.

Resources for Online Learning

The University of Houston is committed to student success and provides information to optimize the online learning experience through our [Power-On](#) website. Please visit this website for a comprehensive set of resources, tools, and tips, including obtaining access to the internet, AccessUH, and Blackboard; requesting a laptop through the Laptop Loaner Program; using your smartphone as a webcam, and downloading Microsoft Office 365 at no cost. For questions or assistance, contact UHOnline@uh.edu.

The preferred online platform for this instructor is Zoom, not MS Teams. The instructor may not monitor Teams communications. Other ways to communicate between the students and the instructor include Email, Blackboard, and [course website](#).

UH Email

Please check and use your Cougarnet email for communications related to this course. To access this email, login to your Microsoft 365 account with your Cougarnet credentials.

Webcams

Access to a webcam is required for students participating remotely in this course. Webcams must be turned on (state when webcams are required to be on and the academic basis for requiring them to be on). (Example: Webcams must be turned on during exams to ensure the academic integrity of exam administration.)

Honor Code Statement

Students may be asked to sign an honor code statement as part of their submission of any graded work including but not limited to projects, quizzes, and exams: "*I understand and agree to abide by the provisions in the (select: University of Houston Undergraduate Academic Honesty Policy, University of Houston Graduate Academic Honesty Policy). I understand that academic honesty is taken very seriously and, in the cases of violations, penalties may include suspension or expulsion from the University of Houston.*"

It is each student's responsibility to read and understand the Academic Honesty Policy found at UH's Graduate Catalog. There will be no tolerance towards academic dishonesty, and cheating can lead to a report of a violation of the Academic Honesty policy to UH.

Sanctions for confirmed violations of this policy may include, but are not limited to: a lowered grade, failure on the examination or assignment in question, failure in the course, probation, suspension, expulsion from the University of Houston, or a combination of these.

In the spirit of collegial and cooperative learning, you are free to discuss ideas and approaches with other students and then implement the solution yourself. The key is this: you should type and debug all the code you submit. In particular, it is not appropriate to email or shares code phrases to be pasted in. Downloading solutions from the internet or asking other people to write the code for you are strictly prohibited. What you submit should be your work.

Sharing your assignment or helping with another student on an assignment is a violation of the honesty code. If you have a question about the policy, please ask the instructor. Reporting obligation: Students who believe they have observed an act of academic dishonesty should report the incident to the instructor as soon as possible.