COSC 362: Theory of Computation
Course Syllabus
Spring 2021

Lecturer: Dr. Joseph Anderson

Office: 128 Henson Hall

Course Webpage: http://faculty.salisbury.edu/~jtanderson/teaching/cosc362/sp21/index.html

Office Hours: See course webpage.

Email: jtanderson@salisbury.edu

Lecture: MWF 8-8:50am, HS 111 or Zoom. Th 8-8:50am, HS 115 or Zoom.

Zoom Meeting Link: https://salisbury.zoom.us/j/98681300024

Textbook: An Introduction to Formal Languages and Automata, Peter Linz, 5th Edition

Prerequisites: “C” or better in MATH 210 (Introduction to Discrete Mathematics) and in COSC 120 (Computer Programming).

Course Summary: Applications of discrete mathematics to computer science and introduction to the theory of computation. Topics include automata and formal languages, computability by Turing machines and recursive functions, undecidability, and computational complexity.

Course Policies

Grading: The final grade will be calculated from two exams (20% each), the course final (30%), and quizzes/assignments (30%). A 100 point scale will be used on all graded work, however it is at the discretion of the lecturer to apply any curve to the grading scale (typically to the benefit of the students). Final grades are at the discretion of the lecturer. NOTE: You must pass the final exam in order to pass the course.

Students have one week from the day an assignment or exam is returned in class to raise questions about its grade. After one week has passed, you may still ask for technical clarification, but a grade change will not be accommodated. This is to ensure that students take timely responsibility for their work and to be confident in the grade they have received.
Homework: Homework will be announced in class and posted on the course webpage. All submissions will occur electronically through the course MyClasses system. All written homework assignments are due at the start of class (or earlier if you know you will be unable to attend). Written homework may be accepted until 11:59pm on the day it is due, but at a 50% reduced score if it is turned in after class. All other late homework will not be accepted and will receive a score of 0.

Collaboration on and discussions of solutions to homework is highly encouraged, but every student is required to write their own copy independently. If you choose to collaborate, be sure to understand the solution and write it in your own words. If one of your solutions is largely due to another person, indicate this on your submitted copy; you should also put extra effort into understanding the solution under these circumstances. It is at the discretion of the instructor to ask a student about any assignment that is submitted. Should there be a concern of any kind about the materials submitted by a student, it is appropriate for the instructor to request an explanation of the submitted/assigned material. The result of this discussion may result in a determination that the student is unaware of how the solutions were determined thus making the submission of the assignment unacceptable. Submitted homework should include your name, the class number, and the date of submission.

Email: Email should primarily be used to set up a one-on-one meeting with me if my office hours conflict with your schedule. I strongly encourage you to ask questions about the syllabus and assignments during class time. For more in-depth discussions (such as guidance on assignments) please plan to meet in person. This policy is not designed to limit or inhibit communication; rather it is designed to promote student independence and meaningful interaction.

Moreover, all email communication should happen over the official SU email system. I will not answer questions from external email address (anything other than @salisbury.edu) and will instead reply to your SU inbox.

Attendance: Class attendance is not required, however frequently missing class may impact your grade by up to 10%. Course lectures, when conducted online, will be recorded and shared via University OneDrive and/or MyClasses.

Other department, university and school policies and resources:

- Student Disability Support Services: [http://www.salisbury.edu/students/dss/](http://www.salisbury.edu/students/dss/)
- Henson School of Science and Technology Course Repeat Policy: [http://www.salisbury.edu/henson/advising/course_repeat_policy.html](http://www.salisbury.edu/henson/advising/course_repeat_policy.html)
- Academic Misconduct: [http://www.salisbury.edu/provost/AcademicMisconductPolicy.html](http://www.salisbury.edu/provost/AcademicMisconductPolicy.html)
- University Writing Center: [http://www.salisbury.edu/uwc/](http://www.salisbury.edu/uwc/)
- Mathematics and Computer Science Tutoring Program: [http://www.salisbury.edu/mathcosc/TutoringCenter.html](http://www.salisbury.edu/mathcosc/TutoringCenter.html)