to

CMSC 302
Introduction to Discrete Structures

Your lecturers

Prof. Vojislav Kecman

Room E 4250

vkecman@vcu.edu

TA: Mr. Douglas Krug, Room E 4222

Office hours

W, 11.30am – 12:30pm

TR 2pm – 3pm

Basic Info

- Semester course: 3 lecture hours. 3 credits.
- Schedule: MW 6:00 pm - 7:15 pm, Room W101
- Prerequisites: CMSC 255 with a grade of C or better,
  or ENGR 245 a grade of C or better, or equivalent

Note – if you had troubles with CMSC255 and ENGR 245 (meaning D, you CAN'T take this course and)

YOU please REPEAT THEM FIRST, and enroll latter.

- **Warning: This class is harder than you think it should be !!!**
- This is a discrete mathematics class taught to you for a first time. You may be familiar with first 2, 3 chapters only BUT DON'T BE MISLED. The material we cover is fundamental to understanding computer science, and we will cover it in depth.
- It's intense, but it's both fun and joy! You should expect to spend ~6 hours a week on homework for this class as **preparations for quizzes**.
- The homework will occasionally be painful, but that's good for you. We are not grading HW. HW is for learning only. Start your homework and reading as soon as it is assigned.

and again,

- **We are not grading HWs.**
- **But note, without HWs you can't make quizzes!!!**
- **HWs are for learning.**
- **Start your homework and reading as soon as it is assigned.**

This is the first important piece of information till now !!!

Textbook: ***Discrete Mathematics and its Applications***, 5th,6th,7th, 8th ed., by Kenneth H. Rosen

- This textbook is **insanely expensive**!
- We have made an arrangement with the McGraw-Hill and in VCU bookstore there is adopted textbook for ~$ 107 or, try here
  www.cheapesttextbooks.com
- This is both a respected and widely used textbook for an introductory discrete mathematics course, and the author is very well known.
- Read your textbook, learn and grow !!!

Grading

It's a Point System – and there are three activities which, combined, will give you a final number of points.

- **Quizzes & MIDTERM** **(60 % total)**
- **FINAL** **(40 % total)**

Grading scale:
A: 90+ B: 75-89 C: 60-74 D: 50-59 F: < 50

No make-up examinations or quizzes will be given.

Please, don't even ask!

FINAL EXAM will be on:

- **Monday, May 4, 2020**

in your classroom

- **7.00pm – 9.50pm**

Communication

- The course website can be reached here: http://www.people.vcu.edu/~vkecman/CMSC302.html
- You are responsible for checking this site and DOWNLOADING LECTURES.
- All homeworks (aimed at learning and better understanding of the course material offered), will be distributed via Email.
- All class announcements will be made via the Email. In particular, schedule changes, if they may be needed, will be sent to you by Email.

Communication

- In the case you want to Email me use vkecman@vcu.edu. The following rules apply:
- Subject line must be

  CMSC 302, YOUR FAMILY NAME

- I am receiving huge number of Emails daily, and the only way how your Email can be safe with me is to keep an easy record by making the

  Subject line having both

  CMSC 302 and your FAMILY name.

General thoughts and hints

- This is really both a clever and fun course!
- Here, you'll meet some of the most beautiful math you'll ever learn.
- Above all, it's useful and you'll realize that soon or, the latest, before getting bachelor degrees

Few Hints:

- Lectures really do help! Attend them, if for nothing else then for not missing quizzes!
- Read the textbook.
- Work two ways - alone first and in a group (when getting stuck).
- Do the homework. No HW, failing exams!!!

More hints on the next page

How To Learn and Be Successful in CMSC 302

1. Attend lectures where theory and concepts are presented with less examples
2. At home go through your book and through as many examples as possible, the best through all of them in the section given
3. Solve ALL the homework problems
4. Attend lectures, because you may miss the quizzes and precious points

More Helpful Hints

- **1. Don't fall behind!** It is particularly important to maintain a steady effort throughout the semester, rather than hope to cram just before quizzes, midterm deadlines or exam.
- Make sure you allocate a sufficient number of hours every week to the class, including enough time for reading and understanding the material as well as for doing assignments. (As a rough guide, you should expect to do **at least 1 hour of reading and 2 hours of problem solving for each hour of lecture**.) Even though this class does not have any major projects, you should plan to spend as much time on it as on any of your other technical classes.
- **2. Take the homeworks seriously!** The homeworks are explicitly designed to help you to learn the material as you go along. Although homeworks are not marked, there is usually a strong correlation between homeworks and quizzes.

- **3. Make use of office hours!** TA holds office hours expressly to help you.
- **4. Take part in discussion sections (tutorials)!** Discussion sections are not auxiliary lectures. They are an opportunity for interactive learning. The success of a discussion section depends largely on the willingness of students to participate actively in it. As with office hours, the better prepared you are for the discussion, the more you are likely to get out of it.
- **5. Form study groups! Y**ou are encouraged to form small groups (two to four people) to work together on homeworks and on understanding the class material on a regular basis. In addition to being fun, this can save you a lot of time by generating ideas quickly and preventing you from getting hung up on some point or other. Of course, it is your responsibility to ensure that you contribute actively to the group; passive listening will likely not help you much. And, recall the caveat above that you must write up your solutions on your own.

Tentative Schedule of Classes, Tutorials and Examinations

Week	Tutorials Mon	Tutorials Wed	
1 Jan, 13 – 17			
2 Jan, 20 – 24			
3 Jan, 27 – 31	Tutorial		
4 Feb, 3 – 7			
5 Feb, 10 – 14	Tutorial		
6 Feb, 17 – 21			
7 Feb, 24 – 28		Tutorial	
8 Mar, 2 – 6		Midterm	
9 Mar, 16 – 20			

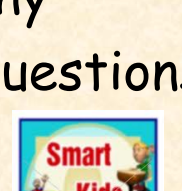
Week	Tutorials Mon	Tutorials Wed	
10 Mar, 23 – 27			
11 Mar, 30 - Apr, 3	Tutorial		
12 Apr, 6 – 10			
13 Apr, 13 – 17	Tutorial		
14 Apr, 20 – 24			
April 27 – May 1		Tutorial	
May 4, 2020, 7pm	Monday		Final Exam

This is the plan only, some shifts are possible

That's all from me as an Intro

Good luck!!!

Any Questions???



Questions are guaranteed in life; Answers aren't.