AMS301.1: Finite Mathematical Structures A, Spring 2023

Distance Learning

Instructor:  Estie Arkin, esther.arkin@stonybrook.edu, Note - currently I do not plan to be on campus, but if this changes my office is Math Tower P-134B, 632-8363,

Office hours: We will use the official class meeting times as office hours Monday Wednesday 10:30-11:50am. If more are needed, I will be happy to set them up. I also welcome questions by email.

TA:  Yuxuan Ye Yuxuan.Ye@stonybrook.edu office hours Thursday 1-3
Alison Chen Alison.Chen@stonybrook.edu office hours Wednesday 3-5
Tzu-I Yang Tzu-I.Yang@stonybrook.edu office hours Thursday 3-5
Qiankun Nie qiankun.nie@stonybrook.edu office hours Tuesday 1:30-3:30
Office hours will be online. Yuxuan, Tzu-I and Qiankun will also be in person, in the TA help room.

Lectures: Monday, Wednesday 10:30-11:50am Pre-recorded modules will be available before class, please watch. The designated class time alternate between going over more examples, homework solutions and answer students questions, (so please try to “attend” live, if possible) and office hours to answer individual students questions or concerns.


Assignments: Homework (home assignments) will be assigned weekly (approximately), posted on Brightspace, to be turned in via Brightspace, as a single PDF file, before the due date and time. Homework that does not meet these expectations will not be graded and will not receive credit. If you want to correct your submission (before the deadline) you may upload a revision. Only your last submission will be graded. There will be approximately 10 homework sets, equally weighted. Please note that due dates may be on different days of the week (due to holidays etc) so make sure you carefully check the due date.

We will also have several brief in class assignments that will count as homeworks. These will be posted during class meetings, and are to be answered on Brightspace within 15 minutes of being posted.

The lowest two scores from the assignments will be dropped before computing the average.

Exams: There will be three exams. The first two midterms will be during class time tentatively Wednesday February 22, and Monday April 10. The third exam (final) is Monday May 15, 9:15-10:45, and is non cumulative. There will also be one practice exam before Exam 1 (time will be flexible). All exams are closed notes and book, however, you will be allowed a “cheat sheet”. This is a 4 by 6 index card that must be hand written by you (not typed, not xeroxed), and it will be turned in with your exam. All cell phones must be turned off during exams, and placed away from your work space! No calculators are allowed. Exam times are by NY (Stony Brook) time, Exams will be online, details will be posted on Brightspace. Most likely we will use the respondus lockdown browser.

Grades: Your total average score will be computed based on 11% assignments, 5% practice exam and 28% for each of exams 1,2,3. Please note that there will be no extra credit option. I will use your total average score to assign a letter grade; typically about 30% A’s, 35% B’s, 25% C’s, and 10% D’s and F’s.

Course Outline:
Graph Theory Basic definitions, models, isomorphism, Planar graphs, Euler, Hamilton circuits, coloring, Trees, Shortest paths, minimum spanning trees, traveling salesperson.
Enumeration and Counting: Basic counting principles; Arrangements and selections, Binomial coefficients, permutations, combinations, Generating functions, Recurrence relations/Divide and conquer, Inclusion-Exclusion formulas.
Learning Outcomes
1.) Strengthen logical reasoning skills to solve combinatorial problems using:
   - elements of propositional calculus;
   - proof by contradiction;
   - logical consequences of assumptions.
2.) Learn to find multiple (equally valid) ways to solve a combinatorics problem:
• apply a top-down strategy (breaking a problem into parts and subparts);
• apply a bottom-up strategy (solving special subcases and building up).
• learn to solve problems from first principles, rather than looking for existing templates or formulas.
• solve a complementary problem;
• use different strategies to categorize subcases of a problem;
• use different techniques (e.g., generating functions, inclusion-exclusion).

3.) Learn basic graph theory results and apply them in problem-solving:
• isomorphism;
• planar graphs;
• Hamilton circuits and Euler cycles;
• graph coloring;
• trees and ways to search them.

4.) Use formulas for counting basic combinatorial outcomes to construct solutions to more complex combinatorial enumeration problems:
• permutations, with and without repetition;
• combinations, with and without repetition.

5.) Apply counting strategies to solve discrete probability problems.
6.) Use specialized techniques to solve combinatorial enumeration problems:
• generating functions;
• recurrence relations;
• inclusion-exclusion principle.

Student Absences Statement: Students are expected to attend every class, report for examinations and submit major graded coursework as scheduled. If a student is unable to attend lecture(s), report for any exams or complete major graded coursework as scheduled due to extenuating circumstances, the student must contact the instructor as soon as possible. Students may be requested to provide documentation to support their absence and/or may be referred to the Student Support Team for assistance. Students will be provided reasonable accommodations for missed exams, assignments or projects due to significant illness, tragedy or other personal emergencies. In the instance of missed lectures or labs, the student is responsible for reviewing slides and notes (posted on Brightspace) and viewing the recorded videos of the classes they miss. Please note, all students must follow Stony Brook, local, state and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID. For questions or more information, see https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/comingback/students.php.

Student Accessibility Support Center Statement: If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact the Student Accessibility Support Center, Stony Brook Union Suite 107, (631) 632-6748, or at sasc@stonybrook.edu. They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

Academic Integrity Statement: Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty is required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. Faculty in the Health Sciences Center (School of Health Technology & Management, Nursing, Social Welfare, Dental Medicine) and School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty please refer to the academic judiciary website at http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/academic_integrity/index.html.
Critical Incident Management: Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students’ ability to learn. Until/unless the latest COVID guidance is explicitly amended by SBU, during Spring 2022 “disruptive behavior will include refusal to wear a mask during classes.

Technical Needs (Hardware and Software): The following list details a minimum recommended computer set-up and the software packages you will need to access and use:

- **Hardware:**
  - PC (Windows 7, 8, or 10) or Macintosh (OS X/macOS 10.10 or higher).
  - 4 GB RAM.
  - A high-speed internet connection. Note that public WiFi (e.g., Starbucks) and internet service provider hotspots (e.g., optimumwifi or xfinitywifi) are **not recommended**.
  - Printer and scanner. A cell phone or tablet camera can do the scanning, with apps such as Office Lens or CamScanner (there are many others).
  - Speakers (either internal or external) or headphones. **Headphones are strongly recommended** to reduce the risk of feedback during communications.
  - Microphone (either internal or external).
  - WebCam or other camera (interfacing with your computer) for producing video.

- **Software** (additional tools may be needed). **Remember to use your Stony Brook email or NetID** when configuring specialized software:
  - An up-to-date Internet browser, such as Chrome, Firefox, Explorer/Edge (Windows), or Safari (macOS). A complete list of supported browsers and operating systems can be found on the My Institution page when you log in to Brightspace.
  - PDF viewer, such as Adobe Reader.
  - Zoom. Stony Brook has a site license for Zoom; you can find information on downloading, installing, and using Zoom at [https://it.stonybrook.edu/services/zoom/students](https://it.stonybrook.edu/services/zoom/students).
  - Respondus LockDown browser and Monitor, for taking quizzes and exams. Stony Brook has a site license for these packages; see [https://download.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=772113517](https://download.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=772113517).

Technical Assistance: If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem with Brightspace you can:

- Visit the Stony Brook University Student Help Desk Page, [http://www.stonybrook.edu/helpme](http://www.stonybrook.edu/helpme)
- Phone:
  - (631) 632-2358 (technical support and Brightspace issues)
  - (631) 632-9800 (client support, wifi, software and hardware)
- Create a ticket at [http://service.stonybrook.edu](http://service.stonybrook.edu).

Students who need assistance with their personal devices can contact DoIT’s service desk at (631) 632-9800 or submit an online request. For more information, visit: [https://it.stonybrook.edu/students](https://it.stonybrook.edu/students)