

COMP 370 - Automata, Computability, and Formal Languages - Spring 2009

- **Class website**

<http://www.sandiego.edu/~glick/courses/comp370/Class.htm>

- **Class Location and Meeting Times**

Lecture: TTh, 10:45 - 12:05, Serra 128

- **Instructor John Glick**

email: glick at sandiego dot edu

Office: Serra 133A

Phone: 619-260-4018

Office hours: Tuesday 2:30 - 4, Wednesday 9 - 11, Thursday 2:30 - 4, and by appointment.

- **Required Text**

The required text is *Introduction to the Theory of Computation*, Second Edition, by Michael Sipser (Thomson Course Technology, ISBN 0-534-95097-3).

- **Tentative list of textbook sections covered:**

- Chapter 1, Regular Languages, all sections.
- Chapter 2, Context-Free Languages, all sections.
- Chapter 3, The Church-Turing Thesis, all sections.
- Chapter 4, Decidability, both sections.
- Chapter 5, Reducibility, all sections.
- Chapter 7, Time Complexity, sections 1 through 4.

- **Announcements**

If I need to get a message to the whole class, I will post an announcement on the class website. So check it periodically. If I need to get a message to you individually, I will send an email to your USD account. So check that periodically also.

- **Assignments**

Assignments should be turned in on their due date by 3PM. Assignments turned in after this time and up to 3PM on the next class meeting day will be penalized 30% of the possible points. Assignments turned in beyond one class late will not receive any credit. You should make your answers correct and complete, and your writing clear and neat. Written assignments will count for 25% of your final grade.

- **Quizzes**

On days when you had a reading assignment the previous class, I may give you a quiz based on the reading. You can use during the quiz notes that you wrote based on your reading (one 8.5" x 11" sheet front and back). This sheet has to have been written or typed by you - it cannot be copied from another student or from any other sources. You must turn this sheet in with the quiz.

These quizzes cannot be made up, but I will drop your two lowest scores. I will warn you about upcoming quizzes the day of the previous class. The quizzes will count for 5% of your grade.

- **Exams**

There will be two midterm exams and a final. The midterm exams will be on Thursday, March

5 and Thursday, April 30. Each will be worth 20% of your grade. The final will be on Tuesday, May 19, from 11AM - 1PM. It will be worth 30% of your grade.

The exams will cover all the assigned reading, lecture material, quizzes, and written assignments, up to that point in the class. You must take the exams at the scheduled times, unless extraordinary circumstances prevent you from doing so. In this case, you must contact me as soon as possible to explain the situation.

The exams will be closed book and closed note, with no calculators allowed. Of course, you cannot receive any kind of external help on an exam.

I do not give any makeup midterms. If a verifiable extraordinary circumstance prevents you from taking one of them, I will give additional weight to your final (equal to the sum of the weights of the midterm and the final in the table below).

You must also take the final during its scheduled time. If a verifiable extraordinary circumstance prevents you from taking it then, I will work out something with you.

- **Academic Integrity**

I encourage you to first attempt the written assignments by yourself. The benefit to you from the assignments comes not so much from having correct answers to the problems, but from the process of arriving at the answer, and working on your own insures that that benefit of arriving at the answer goes entirely to you. After working on the problems by yourself, group work, done "right," can benefit all students involved. You can learn a lot by helping each other to understand the problems and to think of solutions to them. However, you should write up your solutions on your own. So, do not share your written homework solutions with other students, and do not submit as your own work that was substantially done by another student. Of course, you should not receive any type of external help on a quiz or an exam.

If I become aware of any violations of these rules by a student I will initiate the actions described in the Policy on Academic Integrity.

- **Grading**

I do not grade on a strict scale, but you will do no worse than the scale shown below.

- A: 93 and above
- A-: at least 90 but less than 93
- B+: at least 87 but less than 90
- B: at least 83 but less than 87
- B-: at least 80 but less than 83
- C+: at least 74 but less than 80
- C: at least 69 but less than 74
- C-: at least 65 but less than 69
- D: at least 55 but less than 65
- F: below 55

You will not be allowed to take an incomplete unless there is a reason that prevents you from completing the work of the course. Just getting behind is not a sufficient reason.