



CS 323 Data Structures & Algorithms

Spring 2010

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Course Overview

Please note that this is the main website for the course. All essential materials will be posted here. As the (current) catalog says, this "is an advanced course in computer science, studying ideas and algorithms for processing data in a computer. The course will involve studying such data structures as lists, trees, heaps, hash tables, graphs, and their applications in the construction of efficient algorithms. Searching and sorting algorithms will be also discussed."

Python will be the programming language for this course.

But don't panic: You will find that Python is easy to learn, and that it looks a lot like the "Pseudo-Code" used in most textbooks on data structures and algorithms. Knowing Python may even help you get a better job. At Google, for example, Python is as important as C++ and Java. See this 2005 [eWeek article](#) for example, as well as numerous ads on [Google Jobs](#). Depending on which companies you follow, or whose blog you read, today Python is as important as Java in web programming.

A good place to learn Python is via one of the on-line tutorials. See this [Tutorials List](#) at the Python.org site.

Course Text

No textbook is assigned for this course. Instead, we will use a variety of sources. Most of the materials will be made available to you via this website, and through the University Library's eReserves system. Other materials are freely available on the web.

Grading

Grades will be based on programming assignments, written work, a midterm exam, and a final exam.

******No credit will be given for late assignments.******

The points will be distributed as follows:

Description	Quantity	Unit Value	Total
Written Homework Assignments	5	10 points	50
Programming Assignments	5	10 points	50
Mid-Term Exam	1	50 points	50
Final Exam	1	50 points	50
<i>Total Course Points</i>			200