

Course Syllabus

Course Information

CS 4384.501 Automata Theory – Fall 2013

TR 7-8:15PM. ECSS 2.312

3 Semester Hours

Also listed as CS 5349.501 Automata Theory

Professor Contact Information

Instructor: Richard K. Min (Ph.D., M.S., M.Div., STM., MBA)

Telephone: 972-883-4522 (email is preferred)

Email: Richard.Min@utdallas.edu

Office: ECSS 4.609

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 5:45PM – 6:45PM

(For an appointment via email: Richard.Min@utdallas.edu)

Teaching Assistant: TBA

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

CS 3305 (Discrete Math II) or equivalent

Course Description

A review of the abstract notions encountered in machine computation. Topics include finite automata, regular expressions, PDAs, and context-free languages. [We will also introduce Turing Machines and Undecidability.]

1. Brief review of mathematical background. (Sipser Chapter 0)
(Binary relations, digraphs, strings, languages, inductive definitions and types of proof ...)
2. Finite Automata and Regular Expressions. (Sipser Chapter 1)
(Deterministic and nondeterministic finite automata, regular expressions and regular sets, Kleene's Theorem.)
3. Properties of Regular Sets (Sipser Chapter 1, in particular Section 1.4)
(Pumping Lemma, closure properties, decision algorithms)
4. Context-Free Grammars and Languages. (Sipser Chapter 2)
(Context-free grammars, regular grammars)
5. Simplified Forms and Normal Forms. (Sipser Chapter 2)
(Useful symbols, productions, unit productions, Chomsky normal form)
6. Pushdown Automata. (Sipser Section 2.2)
(Pushdown automaton, equivalence between pushdown automata and context-free languages)
7. Properties of Context-Free Languages. (Sipser Section 2.3)
(Pumping Lemma, closure properties, the CYK algorithm)
8. Turing Machines. (Sipser Chapters 3, 4)
(Turing machines, their variants and the undecidability of the halting problem)

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Course Objective: The goal of this course is to introduce students to the theory of computation. We will discuss several basic computational models including the finite automata (FA), pushdown automata (PDA) and Turing machines (TM) as well as the corresponding classes of regular languages, context-free

languages and recursively enumerable languages. The classes of regular grammars and context-free grammars (CFG) will be introduced. We will show the equivalence between regular grammars and finite automata, and between context-free grammars and pushdown automata. We will also discuss various properties of regular languages and context-free languages, including the Pumping Lemma, several closure properties as well as some decision algorithms. We will discuss the Turing machine model, the notion of decidability/undecidability, the halting problem for TMs and its undecidability.

The Learning Objectives include: (1) Ability to design finite automata and regular expressions, (2) Ability to convert among DFAs, NFAs, and regular expressions, (3) Ability to show that certain languages are not regular, (4) Ability to design PDAs and CFGs, (5) Ability to convert PDAs to CFGs and vice versa, (6) Ability to show that certain languages are not context-free.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Sipser, M.: "Introduction to the Theory of Computation", Thomas Course Technology, (2nd edition) 2006.
(Main Text)

Suggested Course Materials:

Anil Maheshwari & Michiel Smid "Theory of Computatoin", free from
<http://cg.scs.carleton.ca/~michiel/TheoryOfComputation/TheoryOfComputation.pdf>
Martin, J.C.: "Introduction to Languages and the Theory of Computation", McGraw-Hill, 2010.
Rich, E.: "Autotama, Computability and Complexity: Theory and Applications", Prentice Hall, 2008.
Sudkamp, Th.: "Languages and Machines", Addison Wesley, 2005.
Lewis, H. & Papadimitriou, C.: "Elements of the theory of Computation", Prentice Hall, 1998.
Kozen, D.: "Automata and Computability", Springer Verlag, 1997

Assignments & Academic Calendar

- 5 Homework assignments 15% (Each homework is worth 3%)
- Class attendance is mandatory 5%
- Exam #1 (60 minutes) 25% 10/01 Tuesday 7PM
- Exam #2 (60 minutes) 25% 11/05 Tuesday 7PM
- Exam #3 (100 minutes) 30% TBD

Note: The dates here are tentatively assigned and are subject to change as needed.

Grading Policy

The grading scale for this course is A+, A, B, C, D, and F based on the overall grade.
(98-100 A+, 92-97 A, 90-91 A-, 88-89 B+, 82-87 B, 80-81 B-, 78-79 C+, 72-77 C, 70-71 C-, 68-69 D+, 62-67 D, 60-61 D-, Below 60 F. **The instructor reserves the right to lower the average required to receive a particular letter grade.**)

- HW assignments are due in class on the date given. Late HWs will not be accepted. If you are not able to attend a class, you're responsible for any announcements/handouts. HW assignments will be distributed in class. A few copies are also placed at my office ECSS 4.609.
- There will be a few announced (or unannounced) open-book quizzes during the classes for in-class exercise, review, and/or a preparation for exams.
- Final Exam will be comprehensive.
- Students are required to have two photo IDs during an exam.
- Students are encouraged to discuss HW problems. However, your submission must be your own work. Anyone caught in plagiarism will receive zero credit.
- If you decide to stop attending class, be sure to drop or withdraw from the course.

- Any student wishing to contest a grade on a homework should contact the TA
- Midterm exam will be returned in 2 weeks after the grades are announced. During these 2 weeks you can go over your exam with the TA. Your request to re-grade your exam paper can be submitted in writing through the TA. Once the exam is returned to students, no request for regarding can be considered.
- Final Exam will be kept by the instructor for one semester. Anyone wishing to look at his/her exam solutions can make an appointment with the instructor or see him during his office hours. Final grades will be posted by the Records Office.
- All exams (and quizzes) will be graded by the instructor. Homework will be graded by the TA.
- To have A+ or A, you must do all of the graded works, and maintain over 70% for each of them.

Course & Instructor Policies

- Students are required to have two photo ID's during the exam.
- Students are encouraged to discuss HW problems. However, your submission must be your own work. Anyone caught cheating on HWs will receive zero credit.
- If you decide to stop attending class, be sure to drop the course since you will not be dropped automatically.
- Any student wishing to contest a grade on a HW should contact the TA.
- Exam #3 will be kept by the instructor for one semester. Anyone wishing to look at his/her exam #3 can make an appointment with the instructor or see him during his OHs. Final grades will be posted by the Records Office.
- All exams will be graded by the instructor. Quizzes and HWs will be graded by the TA.

- Make up examinations will be administered only for well-documented emergencies. A student must make every attempt possible, via telephone or email, to notify the instructor that he/she will miss the exam prior to the examination date and time. .
- Course credit is only given for work assigned and scheduled in the course schedule. No extra work will be assigned nor will extra credit be given for any extra work performed by a student.
- Assignments/projects turned in after the due date will be subjected to penalty. Take home assignments will not be accepted, if it is more than one week late.
- Examinations will cover the material discussed in the class; they may or may not be in the text book. It is important for a student to attend the class regularly and take notes as and when necessary. Some of the class notes material will be posted on the WebCT. There is a strong, direct correlation between class attendance and class performance. Those students who regularly attend class tend to make significantly higher final grades than those who don't.
- Students are expected to be respectful to each other and to the course instructor. Disruptive behavior in the class room is not tolerated.

Field Trip Policies

Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities

Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. Below is a description of any travel and/or risk-related activity associated with this course

N/A. There will be no Field Trip or Off-Campus activities

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part I, Chapter VI, Section 3*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of F.

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:
The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22
PO Box 830688
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example,

a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.