

Data Structures & Algorithms
COP 3530 UF Online Section 11626, 18721
Academic Term: Fall 2025

Instructor

Lisha Zhou

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Office Hours: Monday (7 – 8 pm) (via Zoom)

By Appointment (Request 24 hours in advance)

Teaching Assistants/Peer Mentors

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Course Description

This course covers algorithm development using pseudo languages, basic program structures, program design techniques, storage, and manipulation of basic data structures like arrays, stacks, queues, sorting and searching, and string processing. Linked linear lists. Trees and multilinked structures. 3 Credit Hours.

Course Pre-Requisites / Co-Requisites

(COP 3504 or COP 3503) and COT 3100 and (MAC 2234 or MAC 2312 or MAC 2512 or MAC 3473), all with a minimum grade of C.

Course Objectives

By the end of the semester, students should be able to

- Choose and implement data structures for solving problems based on their functions and situational appropriateness of the application
- Choose an algorithm for solving a problem based on its computational complexity and appropriateness of the application
- Use an abstract data type to describe a data structure

Professional Component (ABET)

This course is used to assess program outcomes for these ABET criteria:

- an ability to develop and conduct appropriate experimentation, analyze and interpret data, and use engineering judgment to draw conclusions
- an ability to function effectively on a team whose members together provide leadership, create a collaborative and inclusive environment, establish goals, plan tasks, and meet objectives

Required Textbooks and Software

- Required Tools: Canvas, Slack, Edugator, Gradescope, and Lockdown browser
- Optional Tools for practicing additional programming problems: Stepik

Recommended Materials (Optional)

- Textbook: Data Structures and Algorithm Analysis in C++
 - Mark Allen Weiss, Fourth edition, 2014, ISBN 9780132847377
- OpenDSA Book: <https://opensa-server.cs.vt.edu/ODSA/Books/Everything/html/index.html>

Course Schedule (Tentative) The course schedule is tentative and **subject to change**.

Week	Dates	Topic	Deadlines
1	08/21 – 08/24	Course Introduction	
2	08/25 – 08/31	Algorithm Analysis	Q ₁ , Q ₂
3	09/02 – 09/07	List, Stacks, & Queues	Q ₃
4	09/08 – 09/14	Trees & Traversals	Q ₄
5	09/15 – 09/21	Balanced Trees 1	Q ₅
6	09/22 – 09/28	Balanced Trees 2	P ₁
7	09/29 – 10/05	Heaps & Priority Queues	Q ₆
8	10/06 – 10/12	Exam 1	E ₁
9	10/13 – 10/19	Sorting, Sets, Maps, & Hashing	Q ₇ , P _{3a}
10	10/20 – 10/26	Graphs 1	Q ₈
11	10/27 – 11/02	Graphs 2	P ₂
12	11/03 – 11/09	Greedy Algorithms	Q ₉
13	11/10 – 11/16	Dynamic Programming	Q ₁₀
14	11/17 – 11/23	Exam 2	E ₂
15	11/24 – 11/30	BREAK	
16	12/01 – 12/03	Complexity Theory	P _{3b}

Evaluation of Grades

Modality	Assignment	% of Final Grade
Individual	Programming / HTG Quizzes (drop two lowest scores)	12%
	Conceptual quizzes (drop two lowest scores)	10%
	Exam 1	20%
	Exam 2 (Cumulative)	20%
	Project 1	14%
	Project 2	12%
Collaborative	Final Project (Individual or Group: 3a & 3b)	12%
Individual	Extra Credit Opportunities	Up to 3%
		Total: 103%

Grading Policy

Percent	Grade	Grade Points
93.4 - 103	A	4.00
90.0 - 93.3	A-	3.67
86.7 - 89.9	B+	3.33
83.4 - 86.6	B	3.00
80.0 - 83.3	B-	2.67
76.7 - 79.9	C+	2.33

Percent	Grade	Grade Points
73.4 - 76.6	C	2.00
70.0 - 73.3	C-	1.67
66.7 - 69.9	D+	1.33
63.4 - 66.6	D	1.00
60.0 - 63.3	D-	0.67
0 - 59.9	E	0.00

More information on UF grading policy: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Make-Up, Project Resubmission, and Late Submission Policy

- No make-up or late submission allowed on weekly quizzes. Remember, we drop the two lowest scores.
- Projects submitted late will be penalized by **10% each day up to four days**. After the fourth day, you will get a 0. We also count weekends as regular days. So, if an assignment is due Friday, and you submit on Sunday, you will be graded out of 80 instead of 100 (2 days late penalty).

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- No late submission allowed on Final Project (3a and 3b).
- Projects 1 and 2 will have a hidden test suite which we will use for grading after your submission. If you score lower than 80 points on Project 1 or 2, you will have an opportunity to resubmit and get a maximum score of 80 points. We will see the differences in your two submissions to make sure you aren't submitting an entirely new version of the code. *You are not eligible for resubmission if you do not pass at least three public test cases in the first attempt.*
- A lot of you are working and I understand that you may have situations where you can't turn in an assignment on time. All such requests regarding a need for an extension without penalty must be made at least 72 hours before the due date of the assignment and not after the deadline has passed. I will only allow one such request and for further requests you need to provide support documentation.
- Exams may be made up when a student has an excused absence. These absences must be notified to the instructor at least 72 hours before the exam. Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the undergraduate catalog (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>) and require appropriate documentation. Please note that there is no guarantee that requests will be accommodated.

Grade Review

- After one week of posting a grade, no revisions will be made. In the event of a grade review, the entire assignment will be reviewed.
- If there is an ambiguity on a quiz or exam question, you need to get back to the instructor within two hours of taking the quiz/exam to potentially get back points in case the ambiguity is genuine.

Class Expectations

- Stepik questions are optional. They will help you better prepare for your programming quizzes and technical interviews.
- Programming Quizzes will require Edugator and Gradescope; Conceptual quizzes will be on Lockdown Browser/Honorlock/Proctor U.
- Exams will be proctored on Honorlock/Proctor U.
- For the exams, you can use C++ or pseudo code to describe your solution to a given problem.
- C++ is the programming language that will be used throughout the course. You will be coding using C++ 14 in all quizzes and Projects 1 and 2. For the final project, you can use any language or multiple languages.
- Strive for correctness, clean, readable, tested, and documented code throughout the course and not for optimization. Correctness and readability are the goals for this course. Once you have the correct solution then optimize if you want.
- The course will not include Design patterns, Competitive programming, or Formal proofs. The instructor or the course staff will answer questions on the former topics contingent on their time or point you to additional resources. Feel free to post such questions on Slack channels. If any of your classmates do post such questions, don't feel intimidated and if you don't understand it, it is perfectly natural and fine. Some students are more experienced, and everyone should strive to improve their learning not comparing to others.

Academic Dishonesty

- **Quizzes and Exams:**
 - You are **required** to work on programming questions assigned in a quiz on Edugator, conceptual quizzes, and exams **independently** without asking or searching for solutions on the web.
 - You **must not be discussing** the solutions to these assessments **even at the conceptual level**.
 - You are **allowed** to
 - discuss solutions after the due date and late days have passed.
 - search for C++ syntax or refer to definitions of standard functions in the C++ library. For example, using the documentation listed here is fine:
<https://www.cplusplus.com/reference/> or <https://en.cppreference.com/w/>
- **Project 1 and 2:**

- You are **required** to work on projects **independently** without asking or searching for solutions on the web.
- You are **allowed** to
 - discuss conceptually small sections in your project without discussing any code with a peer provided you cite the peer with who you discussed it. Such discussions should be held on a whiteboard using explanation figures/pseudo-codes or through talking.
 - discuss solutions after the due date and late days have passed.
 - search for C++ syntax or refer to definitions of standard functions in the C++ library. For example, using the documentation listed here is fine:
<https://www.cplusplus.com/reference/> or <https://en.cppreference.com/w/>

- **Project 3:**

- It is fine to collaborate with peers. You must make sure you are not blindly copy-pasting another student's code. Also, you must cite the peer you worked with at the code level or conceptually..

- **Code policy for "individual" assessments**

- Sharing/copying, "borrowing" of code structure, looking at code from another student or providing such code, and plagiarism, in addition to other dishonest behaviors, are all considered to be academic dishonesty. No information regarding the project 1-2, quiz, and exam solutions may be shared by students.
- **Looking at any piece of your peer's code, sharing files, searching for solutions found online, or using someone else to code your solution is strictly prohibited.**
- Any student found to have violated these rules, whether a provider or receiver or unauthorized help, will be given a **zero** on that assignment **and a two-letter final grade decrement** for a first offense. For a second offense, you will get an E grade. Also, for both offenses, you will be reported to the Honor Court. **If you aren't clear on what constitutes plagiarism, ask the course staff.**

Discussion and Slack Policy - Be Nice, Be Helpful

- Treat your classmates with civility and respect. Don't attack anyone and no discussion of controversial topics on channels.
- If you have a question regarding code or content, always post it on the appropriate **Slack** channels if you want the course staff to answer. Do not be hesitant however simple is the question. You will be surprised by how many students have the same question but are hesitant to ask. We want to make sure everyone gets the basics right and we hope that you leave the course with a mastery of first principles and basics.
- Use private message or email only if the message is related to personal requests. **Questions related to debugging on private messages will be ignored.**
- Questions will be answered **Monday – Friday in less than 48 business hours typically** by at least one member of the course staff.
- Try to answer questions posted by your course mates if possible and help them. This is helpful for a vibrant environment in a remote course.
- Harassment/Bullying/Making fun of another student will not be tolerated and will lead to disciplinary actions. If someone is behaving disrespectfully on the forum which you find inappropriate, send the instructor a message and don't argue on it publicly.

Office Hours and Code Review Policy

- Students should visit the course staff during scheduled office hours for help on projects or quizzes. Do not send emails or "@" instructors or TAs about project help. The TAs and instructor will often try to answer questions, when possible, in Slack channels, but the way to get personalized help is to visit them during office hours.
- The course staff cannot provide you more than 15 minutes of their time in case of long lines or more than two students waiting to get help during office hours.
- When making any **debugging requests**, make sure you provide the context of what problem you are trying to solve and where is your code failing. Small snippets can be posted on Slack but not the entire code.

- **Debugging requests** for projects/quiz questions must first go through the TAs, peer mentors, or a post on the **Slack** channel. This is **strongly encouraged** given we have a large class and several of you might have similar questions. If your problem is not fixed, then Slack message the instructor and add the TA/Peer mentor who you asked for help to the conversation. **Debugging requests to the instructor as a direct message or an email will be ignored if you do not follow the above protocol.**

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Conduct Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Commitment to a Safe and Inclusive Learning Environment

The Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering values broad diversity within our community and is committed to individual and group empowerment, inclusion, and the elimination of discrimination. It is expected that every person in this class will treat one another with dignity and respect regardless of gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, and culture.

If you feel like your performance in class is being impacted by discrimination or harassment of any kind, please contact your instructor or any of the following:

- Your academic advisor or Graduate Program Coordinator
- Jennifer Nappo, Director of Human Resources, 352-392-0904, jpennacc@ufl.edu
- Curtis Taylor, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, 352-392-2177, taylor@eng.ufl.edu
- Toshikazu Nishida, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, 352-392-0943, nishida@eng.ufl.edu

Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see: <https://registrar.ufl.edu/ferpa.html>

Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care:

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu>, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Discrimination, Harassment, Assault, or Violence

If you or a friend has been subjected to sexual discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, or violence contact the **Office of Title IX Compliance**, located at Yon Hall Room 427, 1908 Stadium Road, (352) 273-1094, title-ix@ufl.edu

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu.
<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling; <https://career.ufl.edu>.

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
<https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>.

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
<https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>.

Student Complaints Campus: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>; <https://care.dso.ufl.edu>.

On-Line Students Complaints: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>.