Discussion Sections:

A2: Wed. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM CAS 213

Instructor: Timothy Kohl
Office: MCS 235
Telephone: 353-8203
E-mail: tkohl@bu.edu (I read my email throughout the day!)
Office Hours: TBA


Remarks: This is a course that introduces some of the basic mathematical foundations of computer science. The principal topics in this course are combinatorics (counting), logic, and set theory, all of which are fundamental to the analysis of algorithms, understanding the logic behind the design of computer circuitry, as well as other applications.

Outline of concepts to be covered:
(Note: Not all sections in a given chapter are covered.)

Ch.1 Fundamental Principles of Counting
Ch.2 Fundamentals of Logic
Ch.3 Set Theory
Ch.4 Properties of the Integers: Mathematical Induction
Ch.5 Relations and Functions
Ch.7 Relations: The Second Time Around
Ch.8 The Principle of Inclusion and Exclusion
Ch.9 Generating Functions

Exams: During the semester, there will be two exams each worth 100 points as well as a final exam worth 200 points. The schedule for these is at the bottom of the next page.
Homework: During the semester, I will generally assign homework on a daily basis. This homework is your primary means of learning the material, more so than even the lectures. Indeed, it is only by actually working out the solutions to problems that one really learns this material. Not doing homework is a bad idea and will result in a poor performance in the course.

Additionally, there will be, throughout the course of the semester, 10 turn-in homework assignments to turn in, each of which is worth 10 points for a total possible maximum of 100 points if you complete each perfectly. Each turn-in assignment will be due by the next class meeting after it was assigned. Late homework will not be accepted.

Grading: Your grade in the course will be based on the combined sum of the two exams, 10 turn-ins and final exam out of a possible total of 500 points.

Makeup Exams: Except in cases of illness and only then with a signed doctor’s note, exams will be given only at scheduled times.

Discussion Sections: In addition to registering for the lecture section, each of you must be registered for the discussion section (A2 above). The discussion will be used for discussing homework assignments and other problems from the text.

Cheating: I consider cheating to be a very serious offense and any cases of it will merit action by the University Academic Standards Committee.

Important Dates:
Holidays: Monday October 8, (Fall Recess: Wednesday November 21 – Friday November 23)

Exam 1 – Friday October 12
Exam 2 – Friday November 16
Final – Saturday December 15, 12:30-2:30PM

Due to the day off on October 8, there will be a substitute Monday schedule on Tuesday October 9, that is, the class we would have had on the 8th will be held on the 9th.

The last lecture will be Monday, December 10.

Web Page: There is a web page for the course where you can find the homework assignment listings, as well as the syllabus and other materials that will be made available during the course.

The URL is: http://math.bu.edu/people/tkohl/teaching/fall2001/MA293.html