

MATH 470H - Fall 2009

INSTRUCTOR: William Rundell
OFFICE: Blocker 614C
PHONE: (979) 845-1450
E-MAIL: rundell@tamu.edu
OFFICE HOURS: Tue 4pm - 5pm, Wed 2pm - 4pm, Thurs 10am - 11am
I am often “on-line” and can provide some assistance via e-mail.

The textbook is *Introduction to Cryptography with Coding Theory*, by Trappe and Washington. This is a very comprehensive book but sometimes other resources might be useful to fill in as the student desires/needs.

Grading Policy:

- There will be some unavoidably difficult concepts in this class. For this reason the grading scale will be $A : \geq 75$, $B : \geq 60$, $C : \geq 50$.
- There will be two exams (100 points each). (Tentative) exams dates: October 8 and December 1.
- There will be weekly homework assignments worth a total of 100 points.

These assignments will have some routine calculation-style problems plus some thought-provoking challenges. For the first type I care little about the language you use, and in almost all cases it will involve adapting existing code that has been provided; but it will be important that you can document your output. These are **not** group projects and great care must be taken not violate codes of ethics. See below.

The thought-provoking challenges. These are here for everyone to enjoy. To expect most students to get most of them correct is unrealistic. This includes the honours students. However, these students **are** expected to make a serious attempt at these problems.

- A final project worth 50 points.

There will be no formal in-class final, but there will be a project due at the end of the semester which will build on and extend aspects covered in the course. Students will be able to choose from a list provided. This will be given out just after mid-semester and the report will be due on the last class day, December 8. This is **not** a thesis or an extensive effort; the purpose is to gain the ability to perform background research and write up the topic in a coherent manner. Honours students will be expected to perform well on this aspect. Depending on the length and complexity, collaborative projects will be allowed. [But the *same grade* will be given to all students collaborating on the project.]

Attendance, absences and make-up policy:

Attendance is one of your responsibilities for the class. I expect you to be in class and to be a good team member by actively participating. Make-ups for missed exams will only be allowed for a university approved absence in writing. Similarly, no late homework will be accepted unless there is a university approved excuse. (see <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule7.htm> for details). Please make sure you are familiar with university policy regarding scholastic dishonesty, see <http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor>.

In this class, collaboration on assignments, either in class or out of class, is forbidden unless permission to do so is granted by the instructor (and this will sometimes be the case).

If you have a disability that may inhibit you from the regular requirements you should visit <http://disability.tamu.edu> to determine what accommodations may be possible.