CSI 30, Discrete Mathematics I
Section D01, Spring 2021

Course Orientation

Hello everyone and welcome to CSI 30. My name is Cormac and I'll be your instructor. In this course we cover many math topics that are useful in computer science, such as logic, sets, functions and probability. I especially enjoy going through the counting and number theory sections since they relate to my own research.

Instructor: Prof. Cormac O'Sullivan

Email. You can email me questions at any time:
cormac.osullivan@bcc.cuny.edu

Office hours: Monday 10:00 – 11:00 am, Wednesday 12:00 – 1:00 pm.
My office hours will be held on Zoom. Just say hello and I'll turn on my sound and camera and we can figure out what you're stuck on.

Blackboard: (to get to it, follow the Quicklinks at bcc.cuny.edu)

Login to Blackboard and find our class section there. Every week there will be new class notes and videos along with homework to do. The class calendar will be there and also the syllabus, information, links, solutions, review sheets and more. All your homework files and exams must be uploaded through Blackboard (not emailed to me).

Book

The textbook for this course is shown on the syllabus. I recommend buying it – either the physical book or an electronic version.

This course will be a combination of live Zoom sessions and recorded videos. There will be some online tests, but your main job will be working on the weekly homework sets. I will grade them myself and give you detailed feedback. The key to success is in understanding the main concepts – figuring out yourself what is going on. I am sure that with some effort you will be able to do well.

If you get stuck in a topic or are having any difficulties then please ask me about it during our Zoom sessions. I'm sure others will be having the same difficulties as you. I especially encourage you to visit my Zoom office hours where we can usually work one-on-one or in smaller groups. I am here to help. You may also find assistance from the math department's online tutorial lab and discuss questions with other class members through Blackboard. The important thing is that you keep trying, even though the material can be challenging, and know that lots of support is available.

Classes

Our official class times are listed as Monday, Wednesday from 8 – 9:15 am, but we will only have live Zoom sessions once a week on **Mondays from 8:30 – 9:15 am**. These sessions are to review the previous week's material, answer questions and look at homework problems. Please have your microphone on mute unless you are speaking. It is nicer if you have your camera on, but that's up to you.

I will make class notes and videos that you can study and watch whenever is convenient. Then you will be able to try the homework exercises. Please email me or come to my Zoom office hours if you have any questions about the material or the homework. I will not take any attendance, but I can see on Blackboard who is logging in.

Using Genius Scan

For this course I recommend you add the app "Genius Scan" to your phone. It is free and available for Android or OS. It allows you to quickly take pictures of your homework pages and makes them into a single pdf file. (It scans each page which is much better than a photograph.) You can use other similar apps but I will only accept homework and exams that are a single scanned pdf.

Homework (worth 50% of your course grade)

Homework questions will be assigned every week to be sent in the following week. There will be some flexibility at first, but late homework will be worth less than on-time homework.

Chapter Exams (worth 30% of your course grade)

There will be three one-hour exams during the semester (probably on Wednesdays) with questions similar to homework questions. The way it works is that I will email you a version of the exam. You write the answers on your own note paper, showing all your work, and then scan it and upload it before the hour is up. I will drop your lowest exam and just count your best two.

Final Exam (worth 20% of your course grade)

The final will be 90 minutes long and cover all the material in the course. The questions will be similar to homework questions. I take cheating very seriously and unfortunately had to fail students recently and report them to the Academic Integrity Officer. They were passing the course but used certain websites to provide exam answers. Try to figure out everything yourself and just do your best.

Tips for doing well in this course:

- For each week of the semester there will be a folder in Blackboard. I will add notes and videos to the folder for each class that week. I recommend you first look through the class notes and see what makes sense. Then watch the video where the material is explained in more detail and make your own notes. After that, read through that part of the textbook to find more information and examples.
- Then you can try that week's homework questions. It is important that you keep up with the homework. As I mentioned before, late homework is worth less and I will give no credit for very late homework.
- If you have any questions or confusion about the material or the homework exercises then please do ask me about it – in our class Zoom sessions, in my office hours or by email.
- There will be some online tutoring assistance available from the Math Tutorial Lab.

Having our course online has its challenges and I would prefer if we were meeting normally in a classroom. Working together though, I'm sure we can have a successful semester!

Further information

Accommodations/Disabilities:
BCC respects and welcomes students of all backgrounds and abilities. In the event you encounter any barrier(s) to full participation in this course due to the impact of a disability, please contact DisAbility Services as soon as possible this semester. A Disability Services specialist will work with you to review the barriers you are experiencing and explain the eligibility process for establishing academic accommodations for this course. You can reach DisAbility Services by email at disabilityservices@bcc.cuny.edu or by phone at (718) 289-5874. You may also reach DisAbility Services through Microsoft Teams. Download the Teams app, login using your CUNYfirst login, and join the DSO Student Service Center team using the following access code: neewu66.

Academic Integrity:
Academic dishonesty (such as plagiarism and cheating) is prohibited at Bronx Community College and is punishable by penalties, including failing grades, dismissal and expulsion. For additional information and the full policy on Academic Integrity, please consult the BCC College Catalog.

Recording of Remote Classes:
Students who participate in this class with their camera on or use a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded solely for the purpose of creating a record for students enrolled in the class to refer to, including those enrolled students who are unable to attend live. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live.