

CSI 350 – Theory of Computation – Fall 2009

Instructor: Dr. Shaun D. Ramsey **Email:** shaun.ramsey@gmail.com
Phone: (410) 810-7485 **Office:** Dunning Decker N102
Office Hours: M 12:20-1:30, TR 12-1
Class meetings: MWF 10:30-11:20
Primary Text: Intro to Theory of Computation by Goddard

Web: <http://shaunramsey.com>

Overview and Topics: Theory of computation is the study in the fundamentals of computer science. A computer scientist should understand the notions of tractable, intractable, and complexity before attempting to tackle any problem. By first examining simple languages and building up to higher languages, we develop a method of understanding complexity and proofs in this course.

Advising and Prerequisites: Prerequisites for this course are CSI 240 and CSI 202. Most importantly is the ability to think logically. Knowledge of discrete mathematics, implications, sets, and proof techniques will be valuable in this course.

Exams: Tentatively, exams will be held on 9/23, 10/21 and 11/20. The final exam will be administered during its scheduled slot during final exam week. An absence on the day of an exam will result in a grade of a 0. Except in cases of extreme emergency, exams must be taken on the day the exam is administered. Before a make-up test is scheduled, documentation of the extreme emergency must be given. Make-up exams for tests missed due to an extreme emergency will be arranged for a time that is mutually convenient for the student and Dr. Ramsey.

Attendance: Students who attend class regularly statistically have better grades than those who do not. It is thus expected that you attend class. This also is a small attempt at professional development and to prepare you for work. In the work force, your attendance is necessary to maintain your employment. My attendance policy is constructed to enforce this. You may miss one week worth of class meetings at no penalty (3 classes in a MWF course or 2 classes in a TuTh course). Each class meeting that is missed after this will result in a 10% reduction in grade. I will not attempt to make

a distinction between excused and unexcused absences. It is your responsibility to obtain assigned homework, announcements and class notes from your fellow students. Talk to classmates for class notes. It is important that you attend every class, as there is certainly a correlation between grades and attendance. As a matter of courtesy, students are expected to inform Dr. Ramsey of the reason for any absence.

Grading: Your grade consists of three exams, one final exam, and assignments. You must pass each exam and have a passing average on assignments to pass the course. Each exam is worth 20% of your final grade. Coursework/quizzes/homework comprises the last 20% of your final grade. Attendance can have an affect on your final grade (see below).

Assignments and Programming: Assignments largely consist of programs completed outside of class, but may include other assigned tasks inside and outside of class. For example, quizzes, oral presentations during class and specific written assignments outside of class. Late homework will receive half credit until the solution is given after which it is worth no credit. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the assigned due date.

Academic Honesty: You are always subject to the Honor Code of Washington College. You may discuss concepts with others, but work is to be done on your own (unless otherwise designated). If you are unsure if something is considered *cheating*, simply ask. As always, if you have questions, feel free to email or stop by my office.

Accommodations: If you have a special accommodation/need that has been reported to the college, please let me know discretely during the first week, so that I can work to meet your accommodation.