

## CSC303: Social and information Networks, Spring 2020

**Instructor:** Allan Borodin      Email:bor.AT.cs.toronto.edu

**TAs**

**Website:** <http://www.cs.toronto.edu/~bor/303s20/index.html>

**Lectures M,W 3:00-4:00 GB 248**

**Tutorials F 3:00-4:00 GB 248**

**Note:** We may wind up having to switch a lecture and a tutorial during some weeks of the term. Also the midterm will likely be given during a lecture or tutorial hour unless we decide to allocate more than 50 minutes for the test in which case we will probably need to schedule an evening time. Alternatively, the test can be given in two installments during the regular class times.

**Office Hours:** TBA, or by appointment. Sandford Fleming, SF2303B.

**Discussions on Piazza:** I welcome student replies to questions. The TAs and I do NOT promise to answer questions on the same day as posted. Students are welcome to provide responses to questions but of course not to solve assignment questions.

### Course Description (mainly from the Calendar)

A course on how networks underlie social phenomena with an emphasis on developing intuition and reasoning about broadly applicable concepts in network analysis. Topics include: introduction to graph theory and graph theoretic algorithms, social networks and relevant concepts, congestion games, information networks, network dynamics, information diffusion, “six degrees of separation”, community detection.

### Text

Networks, Crowds, and Markets: Reasoning About a Highly Connected World By David Easley and Jon Kleinberg

### Grading Scheme

<b>Assignments:</b>	2 worth 15% each
<b>Critical review of a current article:</b>	10 %
<b>Term test:</b>	worth 20%
<b>Final (3 hours):</b>	40%

See the course website for dates and deadlines. For the critical review, I suggest groups of 2 or 3 students and students will choose a current research article directly related to the course.

**The 20% rule:** you will receive 20% of the points for any (sub)problem for which you write “I do not know how to answer this question.” You will receive 10% if you leave a question blank. If instead you submit irrelevant or erroneous answers you will receive 0 points. You may receive partial credit for the work that is clearly “on the right track.” The 20% rule applies to all term work: assignments, term tests, and even the final.

### Assignment Policy

Assignments will be submitted electronically on MarkUs (instructions will follow later). Late assignments will *not* be accepted. Accomodation will be made for medical reasons *with documen-*

*tation*. Requests for regrading (for an assignment or the term test) must be submitted in writing with an explanation as to what you consider to be an incorrect grade. I can immediately look at a clerical error.

### **Collaboration Policy and Academic Integrity**

You are allowed to discuss assignment questions with other students. You are allowed to consult additional materials, e.g., books, papers, websites. Nonetheless, with the exception of the critical review assignment, the writeup of your solutions should be your own and should be done in isolation from other students and resources. In addition, you must clearly identify the names of students you collaborated with (if any) and provide a clear description of additional materials you consulted (if any).

Copying or allowing other students to copy solutions is a serious academic offense and will be reported. Similarly, copying from an internet source will also be viewed as plagiarism. You might find the Arts and Science website on academic honesty (and references therein) helpful: <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/newstudents/transition/academic/plagiarism>.

### **Email Policy**

I read email regularly, but I do NOT promise to reply to all emails. In particular, if your question is of general interest, you should use Piazza. If you choose to use email for say a sensitive or personal question, that is fine. If your question is of general interest, I will probably not respond by email but rather I will address your question on Piazza or during the following lecture, so that everyone can benefit. If your question requires a more technical answer it is much better to ask it during a lecture, or a tutorial, or office hours.

### **Accessibility**

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or Accessibility Services at 416-978-8060; <http://accessibility.utoronto.ca/>.

### **Important Resource**

The course website is considered a required reading for this course. Assignments, deadlines, important dates, and other announcements will be posted on the website throughout this course. You are responsible for checking the website regularly.