

## CSC303: Social and information Networks, Spring 2021

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TAs

**Website:** <http://www.cs.toronto.edu/~ianberlot/303s21/index.html>

**Lectures M,F 3:00-4:00 Zoom (Link on Quercus)**

**Tutorials W 3:00-4:00 Zoom (Link on Quercus)**

**Note:** We may wind up having to switch a lecture and a tutorial during some weeks of the term.

**Office Hours:** TBA, or by appointment.

**Discussions on Discourse:** I encourage 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, 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.

*Note:* The authors have made their pre-publication draft freely available.

### Grading Scheme

|  |                       |                   |                              |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
|  | <b>Participation:</b> | 5%                |                              |
|  | <b>Assignments:</b>   | 2 worth 15% each. | A1 due Feb 12, A2 due Mar 26 |
| <b>Critical review of a current article:</b> | 10 %.                 |                   | Due Mar 26                   |
| <b>Open-Book Term test:</b>                  | 20%.                  |                   | Released Mar 12, Due Mar 14  |
| <b>Open-Book Final Assessment:</b>           | 35%                   |                   | TBD                          |

In the critical review, groups of 3-4 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. All students will be given 12 two-hour grace tokens at the start of the term via MarkUs. Each token is single-use and extends the deadline by 2 hours. You can use (or not use) them as you see fit. These tokens can *only* be used to extend

either the A1, A2, or critical review deadlines. To give an example, you can use all your tokens to extend the deadline of only A1 by 24 hours, or you could use all your tokens to extend the deadlines of A1, A2, and the critical review all by 8 hours. MarkUs will automatically deduct the token(s), there is not need to notify us. Note that for group work, **all** team-members must have the required number of tokens, and the tokens will be deducted from all members.

If you don't have enough grace tokens, then late assignments will *not* be accepted. Accommodation will be made for medical reasons. Requests for regrading (for an assignment or the term test) must be submitted in writing via MarkUs with an explanation as to what you consider to be an incorrect grade. I can immediately look at a clerical error (in this case, feel free to email me directly).

## **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: <https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity/academic-misconduct>.

## **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 Discourse. 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 Discourse 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.

## **Recordings**

This course, including your participation, will be recorded on video and will be available to students in the course for viewing remotely and after each session. Course videos and materials belong to myself, the University, and/or other source depending on the specific facts of each situation, and are protected by copyright. In this course, you are permitted to download session videos and materials for your own academic use, but you should not copy, share, or use them for any other purpose without my explicit permission. For questions about recording and use of videos in which you appear please contact me.