

The University of Texas at El Paso

Department of Computer Science

CS 2302 – Data Structures

Fall 2024 Syllabus

1. General Information

Instructor:

Daniel Mejía, Ph.D.

Email: dmmejia2@utep.edu

Office Hours: MTR 1:00pm – 2:30pm, or by appointment

Office: CCSB 3.1018

Instructional Team			
CRN	10903		August 26 - December 6, 2024
Time	TR 10:30 - 11:50am		UGLC 128
TA	Brandon	Cartwright	bcartwright@miners.utep.edu
TA	Lorelyne	Chavez	lchavez22@miners.utep.edu
IA	Alejandra	Mariscal	amariscala@miners.utep.edu
IA	Daniel	Aguilar	djaguilar3@miners.utep.edu
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IA	Enrique	Munoz	emunoz25@miners.utep.edu
IA	Jorge	Garcia	jharcia5@miners.utep.edu
IA	Maximiliano	Uribe	muribe5@miners.utep.edu

Important Dates:

- First Day of Class – August 26, 2024
- Labor Day (No Classes) – September 2, 2024
- Census Day – September 11, 2024
- Drop Deadline (Automatic W) – November 1, 2024
- Thanksgiving (No Classes) – November 29-29, 2024
- Last Day of Classes – December 5, 2024
- Dead Day – December 6, 2024
- Final Exam – December 12, 2024 (10:00am – 12:45pm) - <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/registrar/scheduling/final%20exams%20schedule/final-exam-schedule-fall-2024.pdf>

Please communicate with the instructor, TA, or IA anytime you have questions, concerns, or wish to discuss anything. Reach out as often and frequently as necessary so that you may succeed.

NOTE: When emailing the instructor, TA or IA, please use [CS 2302 FA24] in the subject.

Prerequisites:

CS 2401 with C or better

MATH 2300 or (CS 2101 & CS 2202) with C or better

Textbook:

Introduction to Python Programming and Data Structures, 3rd Edition

Y. Daniel Liang

Purchase/Rent the book through Pearson+: <https://www.pearson.com/en-us/subject-catalog/p/introduction-to-python-programming-and-data-structures/P200000003438/9780137915972>

You do not need to get the “Study & Exam Prep Pack”

2. Objectives & Outcomes

Course Description:

CS 2302 is the third and final course in the fundamental computer science sequence (required). Students will learn about fundamental data structures and analysis and design of algorithms.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

Level 1: Knowledge and comprehension:

Level 1 outcomes are those in which the student has been exposed to the terms and concepts at a basic level and can supply basic definitions. On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and explain the following algorithm design techniques:
 - a. Greedy algorithms
 - b. Divide and conquer
 - c. Dynamic programming
 - d. Backtracking
 - e. Randomized algorithms

Level 2: Application and analysis:

Level 2 outcomes are those in which the student can apply the material in familiar situations, e.g., can work a problem of familiar structure with minor changes in the details.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe, implement, and use the following data structures:
 - a. Heaps
 - b. Balanced trees
 - c. Graphs
2. Solve problems using hashing, specifically using language-specific data structures (e.g., sets and dictionaries in Python)
3. Describe, implement, and apply the following graph algorithms:
 - a. Breadth-first search
 - b. Depth-first search

- c. Topological sorting
- d. Minimum spanning trees (Kruskal's and Prim's)
- e. Single-source shortest paths (Dijkstra's algorithm)
4. Assess space requirements of algorithms in relation to the size of their inputs.

Level 3: Synthesis and evaluation:

Level 3 outcomes are those in which the student can apply the material in new situations. This is the highest level of mastery. On successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Given a problem, judge which data structures are required to solve it efficiently and justify the selection
2. Solve problems using arrays and lists
3. Given a non-recursive algorithm examine its loop structure, assess its asymptotic running time in relation to the size of the input, and express it using big-O notation
4. Given a recursive algorithm, examine its structure, formulate, and solve a recurrence equation defining its running time in relation to the size of the input, and express it using big-O notation
5. Design and implement solutions to computational problems based on iteration and recursion
6. Trace the behavior of functions and algorithms involving iteration and recursion

3. General Information

Grading:

- Class Participation/Attendance – 3%
- Homework/In-Class Assignments – 10%
- Quizzes – 15%
- Labs – 16%
- Exam 1 – 12%
- Exam 2 – 12%
- Exam 3 – 12%
- Final Exam – 20%

The nominal percentage-score-to-letter-grade conversion is as follows:

- 90% or higher is an A
- 80-89% is a B
- 70-79% is a C
- 60-69% is a D
- below 60% is an F

Additionally, any one of the following will result on a final grade of F, even if the overall average is greater than 60%.

- Obtaining an average of less than 60% on the lab projects
- Obtaining a grade of less than 50% on the final exam
- Obtaining an average of less than 50% on the partial exams
- Not submitting ALL lab projects by the end of the semester, even if they are too late to receive credit

Note: You **must earn a C or better** to pass this course.

The instructor reserves the right to adjust these criteria downward, (e.g., so that 88% or higher represents an A) based on overall class performance. The criteria will not be adjusted upward, however.

Attendance:

Attendance and participation in all lecture sessions are critical factors of your success in this course. Students should be **on time** for all scheduled sessions and **attend the entire session**. Attendance will be taken at every session and will count towards your class participation grade. Attendance will be taken primarily through iClicker, Blackboard, sign-in sheets, roll call, visual attendance by instructional team, or other means. Students are not permitted to “scan and go” (i.e., scan into the class/check in, then immediately leave) nor are they permitted to scan in for another student (using the other student’s account) – this is academic dishonesty and will be reported to OSCCR. Students may be required to “scan out”/“Check in” at the end of the class session. It is required that you attend each session. Failure to attend the class will result in poor performance in the course. Please come prepared for all sessions. Please inform the TA/IA and instructor if you will be late or absent to class.

Students should notify the instructor and TA prior to missing a session if possible, and certainly right after if earlier was not possible. The instructor will allow two unexcused absences per semester before having the option to deduct points from the final grade (5 points from overall grade per subsequent unexcused absence). It is the student's responsibility to obtain the content covered during missed class(es). Participation points also include completing post-lecture and post-labs online quizzes (when applicable) that are administered as surveys to monitor students’ overall progress and potential struggles. Any assignments due on the date of the absence will be considered late if not turned in as specified by the assignment guidelines unless an exception is granted by the instructor. Points lost due to an unexcused absence may not be made up. Any points lost due to an excused absence will need to be made up by arrangement with the instructor.

Quizzes:

The purpose of each quiz is to ensure that you are staying current with the class content weekly reading and to verify that you have acquired the skills developed in class. Quizzes may be paper-based, coding quizzes, or online quizzes on Blackboard, or other platform(s) as mentioned in the class. There will be **no make-up** for missed quizzes.

Homework:

Reading and homework assignments will be announced in class and/or posted on Blackboard. If you miss a lecture session, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed. You should expect to spend **at least five hours per week outside of lecture on reading and homework**.

Deadlines for assignments will be clearly specified in the description of each assignment and/or Blackboard. Assignments will be accepted up to three days late (72 hours) and will have scores reduced by 10% for each day (24 hours) of tardiness.

Labs:

There will be multiple coding labs that will utilize Google Colab or another suitable tool. The labs will be posted on Blackboard and will have a specified deadline. All labs will consist of a coding portion, lab report, and demo.

Exams:

There will be three (3) midterm exams and one (1) final exam. If you have test-taking difficulties in general, or if you have difficulties with our tests, please come let me know as soon as possible and/or request appropriate accommodation from UTEP's Center for Accommodation and Students' Services.

Exams will be submitted through Blackboard. Students will be randomly selected to explain, in real time, their exam solutions. Exams may make use of plagiarism/cheating software. This live examination will be used to determine the student's exam grade. The final exam will be divided in three sections, each corresponding to one of the partial exams.

The final exam will be comprehensive. You must score 65% or better on the final exam to pass this course. You must take the final exam during the time shown in the schedule for the lecture section that you normally attend. Do not "drop in" to another section: there will not be a copy of the exam for you. This is University policy. If you have a scheduling conflict (e.g., if you are taking a final at EPCC) or if you are scheduled for three final exams in one day, see your instructor in advance for accommodation.

Exams may make use of test proctoring software such as, Respondus Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor inside of Blackboard to promote academic integrity. You are encouraged to learn more about how to use these programs prior to the first exam.

Office Hours:

Students are encouraged to attend office hours of the instructor and TA/IA team as scheduled.

Review Sessions:

Periodically, review sessions will be held to help prepare for exams or to have additional practice on the course topics. In general, these sessions are led by the TA/IA team. Most of the review sessions will be held in English; in some cases, additional review sessions will be scheduled and held entirely in Spanish. All exams, homework, labs, quizzes, and other deliverables will still be provided in English and students are expected to produce solutions in English.

4. Policies

Technology:

Course content is delivered through Blackboard, supplemented by Microsoft Teams and GitHub Classroom. Ensure your UTEP MINERS account is working and that you have access to the Internet. You may use any of the primary Web browsers—Edge, Google Chrome, Firefox, Safari, etc. When having technical difficulties, try switching to another browser.

The use of laptops, cell phones, or tablets of any kind, will be necessary for this course (homework). It may be necessary to have a cell phone with a PDF Scanning App (Adobe

Scanner, Notes (iPhone), CamScanner, etc.) to scan homework assignments. You may use a tablet (iPad, Surface Pro, etc.) to handwrite certain homework assignments and submit as PDF documents.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, printer, scanner, a webcam, and a microphone. Additionally, you may be required to submit video recordings during the semester – this can be done using a phone camera, webcam, and/or video camera. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course. If you encounter technical difficulties of any kind, contact the [Help Desk](#).

You are not authorized to use any online services that is not licensed by UTEP, including, but not limited to Discord, Twitch, WhatsApp, or GroupMe. You should not use these services for communication, collaboration, or the like in any way with respect to this course. You are only permitted to use Microsoft Teams, Microsoft Office (Licensed through your Miners account), and Blackboard.

Students are permitted to use iPad/Tablets to handwrite notes or type through their laptop. Students are not permitted to use their iPad/Tablet/laptop to browse the internet or use any other applications that are not related to the course.

Incomplete Policy:

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

Drop Policy:

You will not be dropped by the instructor in this course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the Registrar's Office to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F" for the course.

Accommodations Policy:

UTEP is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services \(CASS\)](#); please contact the office at (915) 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu. Students are required to discuss their accommodations with the instructor for a proper plan to be made.

5. Standards of Conduct, Academic Dishonesty, and Other Information

COVID-19/Illness Precautions:

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let the instructor know as soon as possible, so that appropriate accommodations can be made. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID 19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org.

In general, if you are ill, please stay home.

Copyright Statement for Course Materials:

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. It is not permitted to share, reproduce, or alter any assignment for any purpose. Students are not permitted from sharing code, uploading assignments online in any form, or viewing/receiving/modifying code written from anyone else. Assignments are part of an academic course at The University of Texas at El Paso and a grade will be assigned for the work produced individually by the student.

Class Recordings:

Course lectures may be recorded by the instructor/department. Students are not permitted to record the course (i.e., video, audio, etc.) without expressed permission from the instructor.

The use of recordings will enable you to have access to class lectures, group discussions, and so on in the event you miss a synchronous or in-person class meeting due to illness or other extenuating circumstance. Our use of such technology is governed by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and UTEP's acceptable-use policy. A recording of class sessions will be kept and stored by UTEP, in accordance with FERPA and UTEP policies. Your instructor will not share the recordings of your class activities outside of course participants, which include your fellow students, teaching assistants, or graduate assistants, and any guest faculty or community-based learning partners with whom we may engage during a class session. **You may not share recordings outside of this course.** Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

Support Services:

Technology Resources

- **Help Desk:** Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources

- UTEP Library: Access a wide range of resources including online full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- University Writing Center (UWC): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- Math Tutoring Center (MaRCS): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- History Tutoring Center (HTC): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- RefWorks: A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

Individual Resources

- Military Student Success Center: Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- Center for Accommodations and Support Services: Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- Counseling and Psychological Services: Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support. Please refer to the QR code below for a listing of campus resources.



Standards of Conduct:

You are expected to conduct yourself in a professional and courteous manner, as prescribed by the UTEP Standards of Conduct.

Generative AI:

Generative AI is widely being used throughout the world, however, in an effort to ensure that you fully understand the topics, ChatGPT/Gemini or other GenAI tools and services are generally prohibited. Certain assignments may note that Generative AI tools are allowed, only in these cases, where explicitly written will Generative AI be permitted. Use of GenAI on submissions that do not explicitly state that it is allowed is considered cheating and will be reported to OSCCR.

Etiquette:

Respect and courtesy must be always provided to classmates and to the instructor/TA/IA. Absolutely no harassment or any inappropriate behavior will be tolerated. This course is a space for learning and should be treated as such. When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space. If students wish to do so, they have the ethical obligation to first request the permission of the writer(s). Disciplinary action will be taken against any inappropriate behavior in this course.

A fundamental principle for any educational institution, academic integrity is highly valued and seriously regarded at The University of Texas at El Paso. More specifically, students are expected to maintain absolute integrity and a high standard of individual honor in scholastic work undertaken at the University. At a minimum, you should complete any assignments, exams, and other scholastic endeavors with the utmost honesty, which requires you to:

- Acknowledge the contributions of other sources to your scholastic efforts.
- Complete your assignments independently unless expressly authorized to seek or obtain assistance in preparing them.
- Follow instructions for assignments and exams, and observe the standards of your academic discipline; and
- Avoid engaging in any form of academic dishonesty on behalf of yourself or another student.

Graded work, e.g., homework and tests, is to be completed independently and should be unmistakably your own work (or, in the case of group work, your team's work), although you may discuss your project with other students in a general way. You may not represent as your own work material that is transcribed or copied from another person, book, or any other source, e.g., a web page.

Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable to another person. The below information is not necessarily an exhaustive list of cheating, plagiarism, nor collusion.

- **Cheating**
 - Copying from the test paper of another student
 - Communicating with another student during a test
 - Giving or seeking aid from another student during a test
 - Possession and/or use of unauthorized materials during tests without authorization (i.e., Crib notes, class notes, books, etc.)
 - Substituting for another person to take a test
 - Falsifying research data, reports, academic work offered for credit
- **Plagiarism**
 - Using someone's work in your assignments without the proper citations
 - Submitting the same paper or assignment from a different course, without direct permission of instructors

- **Collusion**
 - Unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments

Collaboration:

The following are **not allowed**:

- Posting any assignment (or any of its parts) online in any form
- Sharing assignments outside of the course (i.e., to other students)
- Copy/pasting any code from anywhere other than from Instructor/TA/IA
 - This includes copy/pasting code snippets (or entire assignments) from online resources such as, but not limited to:
 - stackoverflow.com
 - Chegg
 - Course Hero
 - ChatGPT/Bard
- Sharing your code with other students (unless otherwise specified).
- Reading code from other students (unless otherwise specified).
- Look at another student's code
- Debug another student's code

The following are **allowed**:

- Communicating with the instructor/TA/IA regarding homework, assignments, and labs
- Searching for basic syntax online
- Copy/pasting examples from any reference material (slides, practice problems, etc.) distributed by your instructor/TA/IA
- Use any small code snippets that instructor/TA/IA share with students.
- Using simple predefined libraries (ask the instructor/TA if you are not sure if it is allowed)

When in doubt, *ask*. It is better to ask if something is permitted, rather than doing something that is not permitted and causing issues later.

Plagiarism Detection:

All coursework and assignments are subject to be submitted to cheating and plagiarism detection software including, but not limited to SafeAssign and MOSS.

A full description of the University Standards of Conduct and Academic Dishonesty can be found in the [Handbook of Operating Procedures](#). Professors are required to -- and will -- report academic dishonesty and any other violation of the Standards of Conduct to the Dean of Students and OSCCR.