Time and Place: Monday, 5:30 - 8:35, in a lab to be determined.

This course is different from many other courses: to begin with, it only meets once a week, it will also only meet until the first of November, the date of the field trip to the ACM Programming Contest (unless we win the contest; if we win the contest, we can decide what we can do about further training sessions for the finals, to be held in Stockholm, Sweden, April 18-22, 2009. One possibility would be a special elective at the 40000 level for the Spring that would work similarly to this course).

The field trip will take place on October 31st, we will leave in the afternoon, for either Ann Arbor or Youngstown (to be determined, you have a say on this), we will return on either October 1 or October 2, depending on distance and energy level (the contest isn’t usually over until 6:30 or so).

Since I am shortchanging you on the contact hours by cutting the course short on November 1, I will hold longer sessions during October, eventually as long as 10:30, to simulate the 5 hours of a real contest. To alleviate hunger pangs, pizza will be made available during these longer class periods.

Instructor: Michael Rothstein, 268 MSB, phone 330-672-9065. Email addresses: either mrothste@kent.edu or rothstei@cs.kent.edu (both addresses go to the same place, so if you send a message to both places, I will simply get it twice).

Web address: [http://www.cs.kent.edu/rothstei](http://www.cs.kent.edu/rothstei)

Office Hours: MW 9:30 to 10:30 and 12:30 to 1:30 pm. Also, you can always send email with questions and/or to set up an appointment. Usual turnaround will be a few hours during the day. Email use is to be preferred over voicemail, which will not be checked as often.


Computer Science Departmental Office: 241 MSB (after you exit the elevator, turn right, walk to the corridor, turn right again, the CS office entrance is at the end of the corridor.)
Phone 330-672-9980

Course Goals: The goal of this course is to train for the ACM Programming Contest of November 1 and participate in it: participants will get the trip
paid, an Attendance Certificate, a one year student membership in ACM, and, of course, a T-shirt.

Course Description: This course will be part lectures and part practice; initially, there will be a lot of lecturing, and, as the semester goes on, the lecture will diminish and the practice will increase. Hopefully, by the end of October we will have only 10 minutes of lecture per session! The material to be covered in the lectures (hopefully) will include

1. Strategies and general points
2. Review of Data Structures
3. String Manipulation
4. Libraries for sorting and for large number arithmetic.
5. Combinatorics
6. Number theory
7. Backtracking
8. Dynamic Programming
9. Graph Algorithms and graph traversal
10. Computational Geometry

Prerequisite: Though the main prerequisite for this course is CS 33001, Data Structures, we will use material from other courses; if you already have that material, you will be better off.

Attendance policy By initiative of the Provost of the University, I have been charged with keeping full attendance records, at least for the first ten weeks of the semester. As far as this course is concerned, that is the whole course period; attendance and effort will be a major component of the final grade.

This syllabus may be changed during the semester if necessary: changes will be announced in class; they might also show up on the instructor’s website.

Class disruptions Disruptions should be kept to a minimum; these include (in increasing order of seriousness):

1. Early departure (if announced and done discreetly: please sit near the door so that as few people as possible notice.)
2. Late arrival
3. Use of electronic devices or other devices which may interfere with your or other student’s participation. Laptops are acceptable for taking notes, however, please sit in the last row of the room so that your screen does not distract/block other students.
4. Conversation among students.

5. Aiding and/or abetting these or any other student’s disruptive behaviors.

Guidelines pertaining to class disruptions are outlined in the University Rules and Regulations, available through: [http://www.kent.edu/policyreg/chap4/4-02-2.cfm](http://www.kent.edu/policyreg/chap4/4-02-2.cfm)

**Grading:** Your grade in this course will depend both on effort and on results; since there will be very little homework after the first few weeks, attendance will be an integral part of the grade; so is class participation; if you do not come to class, you will get an “F”; coming to class and doing a bare minimum of work will get you a “D” or a “C” depending on attitude; a sustained effort will either get a “B” or an “A” depending on the degree of success.

**Special accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** University policy 3342-3-01.3 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary classroom adjustments. Please note, you must first verify your eligibility for these through Student Disability Services (contact 330-672-3391 or visit: [http://www.kent.edu/sas](http://www.kent.edu/sas) for more information on registration procedures).

**Registration Requirement:** The official registration deadline for this course is September 7, 2008. University policy requires all students to be officially registered in each class they are attending. Students who are not officially registered for a course by published deadlines should not be attending classes and will not receive credit or a grade for the course. Each student must confirm enrollment by checking his/her class schedule (using Student Tools in FlashFast) prior to the deadline indicated. Registration errors must be corrected prior to the deadline.

**On cheating, plagiarism and other unethical behavior** You are encouraged to discuss class problems with other students but required to work independently of anybody else except the instructors and/or tutor, unless otherwise indicated. Copying other people’s work, allowing your work to be copied (even inadvertently!) and plagiarizing work will not be tolerated and will be dealt with according to University regulations, as described in the University Policies and Procedures, a condensed version of which is attached.

Notes:

1. By default, the penalty for cheating in this course is an “F” in the course.
2. University regulations require me to notify Student Conduct in case of violations.

3. Cooperation is just as bad as the deed itself: so, deciding which of two is the original is a non-issue: both are equally guilty.

Administrative Policy and Procedures Regarding Student Cheating and Plagiarism

Condensed Version

For complete policy and procedure go to www.kent.edu/policyregister 3342-3-01.8.(available at http://www.kent.edu/policyreg/chap3/3-01-8.cfm)

Cheating and plagiarism constitute fraudulent misrepresentation for which no credit can be given and for which appropriate sanctions are warranted and will be applied.

The university affirms that acts of cheating and plagiarism by students constitute a subversion of the goals of the institution, have no place in the university and are serious offenses to academic goals and objectives, as well as to the rights of fellow students.

“Cheat” means to intentionally misrepresent the source, nature, or other conditions of academic work so as to accrue undeserved credit, or to cooperate with someone else in such misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

1. Obtaining or retaining partial or whole copies of examinations, tests or quizzes before these are distributed for student use;

2. Using notes, textbooks or other information in examinations, tests and quizzes, except as expressly permitted;

3. Obtaining confidential information about examinations, tests or quizzes other than that released by the instructor;

4. Securing, giving or exchanging information during examinations;

5. Presenting data or other material gathered by another person or group as one’s own;

6. Falsifying experimental data or information;

7. Having another person take one’s place for any academic performance without the specific knowledge and permission of the instructor;

8. Cooperating with another to do one or more of the above;

9. Using a substantial portion of a piece of work previously submitted for another course or program to meet the requirements of the present course or program without notifying the instructor to whom the work is presented; and
10. Presenting falsified information in order to postpone or avoid examinations, tests, quizzes, or other academic work.

“Plagiarize” means to take and present as one’s own a material portion of the ideas or words of another or to present as one’s own an idea or work derived from an existing source without full and proper credit to the source of the ideas, words, or works. As defined, plagiarize includes, but is not limited to:

a. The copying of words, sentences and paragraphs directly from the work of another without proper credit;

b. The copying of illustrations, figures, photographs, drawings, models, or other visual and nonverbal materials, including recordings of another without proper credit; and

c. The presentation of work prepared by another in final or draft form as one’s own without citing the source, such as the use of purchased research papers.

**Academic Sanctions**

The following academic sanctions are provided by this rule for offenses of cheating or plagiarism. Kent campus instructors shall notify the department chairperson and the student conduct office each time a sanction is imposed. Regional campus instructors shall notify the regional campus dean and the student conduct officer each time a sanction is imposed. Regional campus student conduct officer shall notify the Kent student conduct office each time a sanction is imposed by a regional campus Instructor. The following academic sanctions are provided by this rule for offenses of cheating or plagiarism. In those cases the instructor may:

1. Refuse to accept the work for credit; or

2. Assign a grade of “F” or zero for the project, test, paper, examination or other work in which the cheating or plagiarism took place; or

3. Assign a grade of “F” for the course in which the cheating or plagiarism took place; and/or;

4. Recommend to the department chair or regional campus dean that further action specified in the rule be taken. The department chairperson or regional campus dean shall determine whether or not to forward to the academic dean or to the vice president for the extended university a recommendation for further sanction under this rule.
**Academic Appeals**

The general principle that applies to the following procedures is that an appeal is directed to the administrative level immediately above the unit from which the appeal emanates.

Appeals are limited to the following reasons:

a. The decision is arbitrary or unreasonable,

b. The decision resulted from a procedural error,

c. The decision is not in accordance with the facts presented,

d. New information is available which may suggest modification of the decision.

For complete policy and procedure go to www.kent.edu/policyregister 3342-3-01.8, available at [http://www.kent.edu/policyreg/chap3/3-01-8.cfm](http://www.kent.edu/policyreg/chap3/3-01-8.cfm)