

COMP5900D Approximation Algorithms

Course Information

Instructor: Svetlana Obraztsova

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Classroom: Room location is posted on the public class schedule

Lectures: Mondays, 14:35-17:35 Tutorials: No tutorials available for the course

Course Website: <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/208165>

Textbook: Vijay V. Vazirani "Approximation Algorithms"

Course Calendar and Topics covered:

11 September. Basic combinatorial optimization problems and definitions.

18 September. Set cover problem.

Homework 1 becomes available.

25 September. Travelling salesman problem, minimum spanning tree problem.

Deadline for submitting Homework 1.

2 October. Knapsack problem.

Quiz 1 (in class).

16 October. Bin packing problem.

Homework 2 becomes available.

30 October. Midterm (in class).

Deadline for submitting Homework 2.

6 November. Introduction to LP Duality.

13 November. Dual fitting.

Homework 3 becomes available.

20 November. Rounding.

Quiz 2 (in class).

Deadline for submitting Homework 3.

27 November. Scheduling on unrelated parallel machines.

Homework 4 becomes available.

4 December. Optional: Facility location.

Deadline for submitting Homework 4.

8 December. Quiz 3 (in class).

Assessment Scheme

Homework assignments contribute 30% to the final grade. Midterm contributes 40%. Quizzes contribute 30% to the final grade.

Homework component will be calculated based on 3 best homework assignments out of 4. Quizzes component will be calculated based on 2 best quizzes out of 3.

No make up quizzes will be available. Homework assignments submitted after their respective deadline (either offline or online) will receive a mark of 0.

Deadlines for homeworks: 25 September (HW1), 30 October (HW2), 20 November (HW3), 4 December (HW4). All deadlines are at 15:00 Ottawa time.

Quizzes: 2 October, 20 November, 4 December.

Midterm: 30 October.

All quizzes and midterm will be closed book.

University Policies

For information about **Carleton's academic year**, including registration and withdrawal dates, see [Carleton's Academic Calendar](#).

Pregnancy Obligation. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit [Equity Services](#).

Religious Obligation. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit <https://carleton.ca/equity/focus/discrimination-harassment/religious-spiritual-observances/>.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities. If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. For more details, visit the [Paul Menton Centre](#) website.

Survivors of Sexual Violence. As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities. Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who

compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, see [the policy](#).

Student Academic Integrity Policy. Every student should be familiar with the Carleton University student academic integrity policy. A student found in violation of academic integrity standards may be awarded penalties which range from a reprimand to receiving a grade of F in the course or even being expelled from the program or University. Examples of punishable offences include: plagiarism and unauthorized co-operation or collaboration. Information on this policy may be found [here](#).

Plagiarism. As defined by Senate, "plagiarism is presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own". Such reported offences will be reviewed by the office of the Dean of Science. Standard penalty guidelines can be found [here](#).

Unauthorized Co-operation or Collaboration. Senate policy states that "to ensure fairness and equity in assessment of term work, students shall not co-operate or collaborate in the completion of an academic assignment, in whole or in part, when the instructor has indicated that the assignment is to be completed on an individual basis". Please refer to the course outline statement or the instructor concerning this issue.

Special Information

It is important to remember that COVID is still present in Ottawa. The situation can change at any time and the risks of new variants and outbreaks are very real. There are number of actions you can take to lower your risk and the risk you pose to those around you including being vaccinated, wearing a mask, staying home when you're sick, washing your hands and maintaining proper respiratory and cough etiquette.

Feeling sick? Remaining vigilant and not attending work or school when sick or with symptoms is critically important. If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms do not come to class or campus. If you feel ill or exhibit symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately. In all situations, you must follow Carleton's symptom reporting protocols.

Masks: Carleton has paused the COVID-19 Mask policy, but continues to strongly recommend masking when indoors, particularly if physical distancing cannot be maintained. It may become necessary to quickly reinstate the mask requirement if pandemic circumstances were to change.

Vaccines: While proof of vaccination is no longer required as of May 1 to attend campus or in-person activity, it may become necessary for the University to bring back proof of vaccination requirements on short notice if the situation and public health advice changes. Students are strongly encouraged to get a full course of vaccination, including booster doses as soon as they are eligible, and submit their booster dose information in cuScreen as soon as possible. Please note that Carleton cannot guarantee that it will be able to offer virtual or hybrid learning options for those who are unable to attend the campus.

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow requirements and guidelines regarding health and safety which may change from time to time. For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 website and review the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca.