Course Home Page:  https://people.cs.pitt.edu/~kirk/cs1511/index.html
Course Piazza Group:  piazza.com/pitt/spring2018/cs1511  This group will be used for announcements. The course group is the best place to ask general questions (e.g. a question about a particular homework problem). This group will be monitored by the instructor and TA, but often other students can provide a quicker answer than the instructor.

Instructor: Kirk Pruhs  
Office: 6415 Sennott Square  
Phone: 624-8844  
Email: kirk@cs.pitt.edu Please use the course group for general questions about assignments, etc.  
Office hours: 10:45 - 11:30 MWF and 2:15-2:45 MW

TA: Alireza Samadian  
Office: 5106 Sennott Square  
Email: als417@pitt.edu  
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 3 - 5 PM

Course Meeting: The course will meet on selected Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:30-10:45 in 5313 Sennott Square. A normal semester class has 27 scheduled class meetings, of which often one or two are canceled. We will have a similar number of class meetings.


Prerequisites: CS 1502. If you take this class without these prerequisites, you forfeit any right to complain that the class is at an inappropriate level.

Course Content and Grading: We will loosely follow the first eleven chapters of the text by Arora and Barak. There will be daily homework assignments and two midterm exams.

Grading: Grades will be based on homework, classroom participation, and two midterm exams. Homework will constitute 30% of the final grade. Each midterm exam will constitute 30% of the final grade. There will not be a cumulative final exam. Attendance will be taken and, along with class participation (including participation on Piazza), will count for the remaining 10% of the grade.

I will subjectively set the grading scale at the end of the semester. You are not in competition with other students. I have no set numbers of A’s, B’s etc. I strongly suggest you cooperate with each other to understand the material. This is in all students’ best interests. If a student’s homework scores are conspicuously/suspiciously higher than a student’s exam grades, I reserve the right to base the course grade on only the exam scores, and classroom participation. Generally speaking, I usually don’t give out a lot of A’s because I think the top grade should really represent mastery of the material, but I tend to be sympathetic in giving out C’s if a student attends class regularly, participates fully in class, and regularly makes a good faith attempt on homework assignments.

Homework Policy: You should do your homework in groups of 2 or 3 people. Groups of different cardinalities, including 1, must be approved by me. Each group need only provide one write-up per group. Write-ups must use \LaTeX, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LaTeX. Figures may be hand drawn. You may discuss problems with any student in the class with the provisos that you shouldn’t feed others complete solutions, and you must acknowledge your collaborators, and the nature of the collaborations at the end of your the write-up. You may not seek solutions to assigned problems on the www, in other books, from friends outside the class, etc.

All homework is due at the start of class on the date due. You will turn hard copy of your solution in at the start of class. No late homework is accepted. The homework will be graded by the TA. Most students
will find some problems difficult. It is not expected that all students will be able to answer all the homework questions.

**Exam Scoring Appeal Policy:** You may submit an appeal in writing if you believe that your solution for a problem on an exam is "essentially fully correct". No appeals are allowed for additional partial credit; Partial credit is too subjective. Appeals will not be accepted earlier than 1 class after the exams were returned, and will not be accepted later than 2 classes after the exams were returned. Note that the problem will be regraded, there is a possibility that the new grade will be lower than the original grade. Of course any clerical errors can be corrected.

**Disability Policy:** If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resources and Services, 216 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890/(412) 383-7355 (TTY), as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

**Missing tests:** If you are going to miss a test for unavoidable reasons then before the exam (or as soon as possible) you must contact me.

**Cheating Policy:** I have no tolerance for cheating. If you are caught cheating, you will receive an F grade for the course.