

Class Times: MWF 1:00 PM - 2:15 PM SENSQ 5313

Course Home Page: <http://people.cs.pitt.edu/~kirk/CS1699Fall2014/index.html>

Instructor: Kirk Pruhs

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Email: [kirk@cs.pitt.edu](mailto:kirk@cs.pitt.edu) (Please use the course group for general questions about assignments, etc. )

Office hours: 10:45-11:30 and 2:15 - 3:00 Monday, Wednesday and Friday. If you can catch me in my office on these days, I'm probably happy to talk to you unless I have a paper/grant deadline.

**Text:** Networks, Crowds, and Markets: Reasoning About a Highly Connected World By David Easley and Jon Kleinberg. An online version can be found at: <http://www.cs.cornell.edu/home/kleinber/networks-book/>  
The plan is to cover the whole text.

**Prerequisites:** Consent of the instructor

**Course Content:** This is both the first time that I have taught a course on this topic, and the first time that I have taught a special topics course that includes undergraduates. So I view all plans as tentative, and subject to change based on experience. The current plan for the first 20 or so classes is as follows: For each class, there will be an assigned reading, and assigned homework problems. There will be a short quiz at the start of class to determine to what extent the students learned the material. I will then lecture on either some more portion of the text that is conceptually more difficult (usually the portions label advanced material), or lecture about conceptually more difficult extensions of the material in the book. We should finish off covering the material in the text in these 20 lectures.

The remaining classes will each consist of two 25 minute conference style talks given by students on selected papers in a recent ACM Conference on Economics and Computation (EC), followed by brief discussions. Each student will give two such talks.

**Grading:** Grades will be based on homework, daily quizzes, class attendance, class participation, and the talks. The exact weight of each component will be determined later.

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.

**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.

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