Coms 461   Syllabus   Fall 2016

The Instructor

- Dr. Robb T. Koether

- Office: Bagby 114

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- Home phone: 392-8604

- Office hours: 1:30 - 3:20 MTW, 1:30 - 3:20 F (usually); other hours by appointment.

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- Web page: http://people.hsc.edu/faculty-staff/robbk

Introduction

- The class meets in Bagby 020 MWF at 12:30.

- The text for the course is An Introduction to Formal Languages and Automata. 6th ed., by Peter Linz.

- The web page for this course is at

$$\text{http://people.hsc.edu/faculty-staff/robbk/Coms461}$$

Grading

Your final grade will be based on several computer programs (written in JFLAP), several exercise sets, three tests, and a final exam. In the final average, these will have the following weights:

Category	Weight
Computer programs	20%
Exercise sets	20%
Test average	40%
Final exam	20%

All outside work is due at the beginning of class on the due date. *No late work will be accepted.*

Computer Programs

We will use the Java program JFLAP to simulate simple machines. Some of the programming assignments will be collected and graded. The grade will be determined by how well the machine performed on a set of test cases.

Exercise Sets

Homework exercises will be assigned daily and selected exercises will be collected approximately every two weeks. Most of the problems will be taken from the book, but some may be from other sources.

Tests

There will be three tests, given on the following dates:

Test	Date
1	Fri, Sep 23
2	Fri, Oct 21
3	Fri, Nov 18

You should make every conceivable effort to be present and prepared for an hour test. If you do not feel that you are prepared, you must take the test anyway. The only valid excuses for missing a test are serious illnesses and unavoidable emergencies, which can be verified. If you foresee that you must miss a test, then you should make arrangements, before the absence, to take the test. If you miss a test for a reason that is less than compelling, you will not be allowed to take the test later. If you miss a test, it is essential that you contact me and make arrangements at the earliest possible moment. Failure to follow this policy will invalidate any excuse.

The Final Exam

The final exam will be cumulative. It will be given in this room on Friday, December 9 at 2:00 p.m. Everyone must take the final exam and it will not be rescheduled. If the final exam is take-home, then it will be due by 5:00 p.m. Friday, December 9.

Attendance

Attendance will be checked at the beginning of each class. If you arrive late, you will be counted absent. If that happens and you would like to be marked present, see me after class. In that case, the late arrival will count as half an absence. Otherwise, late arrivals and absences will all count as absences. When assigning final grades, attendance will be taken into account.

Absences	Action
0 - 2	Grade bonus (1 "part" of a grade)
3 - 4	Neutral
5 - 6	Grade penalty (1 "part" of a grade)
> 6	Withdrawal (WF)

A warning letter will be sent out after the 6th absence. The last day to drop a course without a grade of WF is Oct 21.