

# Course Organization

SFWRENG 2CO3: Data Structures and Algorithms

Jelle Hellings

Department of Computing and Software  
McMaster University



Winter 2024

# People

Instructor Jelle Hellings ([jhellings@mcmaster.ca](mailto:jhellings@mcmaster.ca), <https://jhellings.nl>)  
ITB, room 124 ([floor map](#))

Teaching Assistants

- ▶ Derron Li ([li1578@mcmaster.ca](mailto:li1578@mcmaster.ca)).
- ▶ Celine Sana ([sanay@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sanay@mcmaster.ca)).
- ▶ Viransh Shah ([shahv47@mcmaster.ca](mailto:shahv47@mcmaster.ca)).
- ▶ Amin Toloekashefpakdel ([toloekaa@mcmaster.ca](mailto:toloekaa@mcmaster.ca)).

Office hours See Avenue to Learn for updates.

- ▶ Wednesday: 2:45PM–5:00PM (ITB 124).
- ▶ Thursday: 2:45PM–5:00PM (ITB 124).

# Course Details

**Website** Avenue to Learn (<https://avenue.mcmaster.ca>).  
Course material, assignments, submission of assignments.

**Lectures** Three lectures per week (January 8, 2024–April 10, 2024).

- ▶ Monday: 1:30PM–2:20PM (JHE 264).
- ▶ Wednesday: 1:30PM–2:20PM (JHE 264).
- ▶ Thursday: 1:30PM–2:20PM (JHE 264).

**Tutorials** Start January 12.

- ▶ T01: 9:30AM–10:20AM on Friday (HH 104).
- ▶ T02: 12:30AM–1:20PM on Monday (ABB B118).
- ▶ T03: 12:30AM–1:20PM on Monday (ABB 271).

# Textbook

## Algorithms, 4th edition

Robert Sedgewick and Kevin Wayne.

Available via the [McMaster Campus Store](#).

## Material covered in this course

- ▶ *1. Fundamentals*, Section 1.3–1.5.
- ▶ *2. Sorting*, Section 2.1–2.5.
- ▶ *3. Searching*, Section 3.1–3.5.
- ▶ *4. Graphs*, Section 4.1–4.4.
- ▶ *5. Strings*, Section 5.1–5.4.

We refer to the *Study Guide* for details.

There are excellent online resources available for this book:  
via the [book website](#) and the [author website](#).

# Grading

**Final Exam** 47.5% of grade.

**Assignments** Twelve assignments of which the best *ten* count, 5.25% of grade each.  
The deadlines are as follows:

- ▶ *January 21, January 28.*
- ▶ *February 4, February 11, February 18, February 26.*
- ▶ *March 4, March 11, March 18, March 25.*
- ▶ *April 3, April 10.*

**Bonus grades** Any feedback that leads to the improvement of the course material (at the discretion of the instructor).

# Assignments

**Assignments are individual—No submissions of work by others!**

- ▶ Posted on Avenue.
- ▶ Solutions submitted via Avenue.

## Late submission policy

We aim to provide rapid feedback on assignments: *submit on time!*

- ▶ A five hour grace period, e.g., to deal with technical issues.
- ▶ A late penalty of 20% on the score per day.
- ▶ Five days or more past the due: submission not accepted.
- ▶ Do not wait until the deadline to raise problems.

Plan accordingly to avoid incidents!

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**Assignments are only visible after you complete the survey *Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty*. You can find this survey under Resources > Survey.**

# How to Study

1. Keep up with the *course material* (textbook, notes) preferably *before* the lectures.
2. Follow the lectures & ask questions!
3. Make entry-level and advanced exercises in the tutorials.
4. Work on the assignments.  
Get initial practice via exercises *before* diving into the assignments.

## Use your tutorial time wisely

TAs can help with exercises, example assignments, and understanding assignments.  
*TAs cannot help make the assignments, provide answers, or verify your answers.*



# Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

**Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will be handled accordingly.  
All suspicions will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.**

(in accordance with the [Academic Integrity Policy](#).)

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## Academic dishonesty and assignments

**If any part** of your solution to an assignment is obtained via academic dishonesty (e.g., via plagiarism, inappropriate collaboration, generative AI, or other means)

**then** we will apply or advise a **zero grade** for the entire assignment.

Furthermore, we **will count** the assignment as one of the best ten assignments.

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- ▶ Do not submit (parts of) assignment solutions of *others* as your own:  
All *graded work must* be your own work, based on your own ideas and conclusions.
- ▶ Do not *discuss or share* any parts of your assignment solutions with others  
(that are not TAs or the instructor – including online).
- ▶ You are *responsible for protecting* your work:  
Lock your laptops and do not share your logins with partners or friends!

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- ▶ Do not use *online services* to aid in your assignments (e.g., YouTube, GeeksforGeeks, Stack Overflow, Reddit, Chegg, ChatGPT, Quora, ...).
- ▶ If parts of your work are based on the works of others, then include *unambiguous citations* of sources you used outside the course material.
- ▶ In case of doubt, contact the instructor *before handing in your work*.

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If you *submit solutions to an assignment*, you will be asked to confirm that

- ▶ you are aware of the *Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty* policy of this course;
- ▶ you are aware of the [Academic Integrity Policy](#);
- ▶ you have completed the submitted work entirely yourself; and
- ▶ you agree to automated and manual plagiarism checking of all submitted work.

All your submitted works will be subject to *automated and manual plagiarism checking*.

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**Assignments are individual—No submissions of work by others!**

**All cases of academic dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the [Academic Integrity Policy](#) via the [Office of Academic Integrity](#).**

# Requests for Relief

Assignment solutions can be discussed during the lectures *ten days after the deadline*.

## MSAF–Self Report (Type A)

An extension of the deadline of three (3) days.

## MSAF–Administrative Report (Type B)

If your situation requires a long-term extension (more than ten days after the deadline), then a replacement assignment will be provided.

Requests for relief must always follow the  
**Policy on Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work.**



## Closing Remarks

- ▶ Feel free to *always* ask questions.  
Your main point of contact with regards to exercises and assignments: the TAs.
- ▶ If any other issues arise: let me know directly  
(e.g., via e-mail, after the lecture, or during Office Hours).
- ▶ General feedback or suggestions for improvements are welcome!

E-mail: [jhellings@mcmcaster.ca](mailto:jhellings@mcmcaster.ca).