CpSc 3500 Fall 2023

Foundations of Theoretical Computer Science

MWF 8:00–8:50am, McAdams 143

Wayne Goddard
McAdams 311
goddard@clemson.edu

Office Hours. See logistics page.

Content.
• Regular Expressions and Finite Automata
• Grammars and Pushdown Automata
• Turing Machines and Undecidability
• Brief Overview of Complexity

Goals/Learning Outcomes.
• Design a finite automaton or regular expression for a given language.
• Convert among notations for a given regular language.
• Design a context-free grammar, pushdown automaton, or Turing Machine for a given language.
• Explain the Church-Turing thesis and its significance.
• Explain why the Halting Problem has no algorithmic solution.
• Define the classes P and NP and explain the significance of NP-completeness.

Grade. The grade is determined as follows.
First, a class-grade $G$ is obtained as a weighted average:
Assignments: 36%, ClassSheets: 4%, Testlets: 60%,
The overall numerical grade is the maximum of \( .75G + .25F \) and \( .97G + .03F \) where $F$ is grade on the final.
The cut-off for an A will be 89.50; the cut-off for a B will be 80.00; the cut-off for a C will be 70.00. (Grades are calculated to two decimal places.)

Assignments/Homework. Unless otherwise specified, these are individual, and must be strictly your own work and are not to be shown to anyone else.

Logistics. See separate hand-out for logistics.

Books and Notes and Handouts. Most handouts and other material will be archived at course website people.computing.clemson.edu/~goddard/handouts/cpsc3500. Some info will be placed on Canvas. The somewhat suggested book is: Goddard: Introducing the theory of computation.

For more rules and regulations, see separate hand-out. This includes discussion of course management, academic integrity, accessibility, equal opportunity and equity, and emergency preparedness.