



## Program Structure and Algorithms (INFO 6205)

### Course Information

Course Title: Program Structures and Algorithms

Course Number: INFO 6205

Term and Year: Summer 2025

Credit Hour: 4

CRN: 53371

Course Format: Virtual (BOS)

### Instructor Information

Full Name: Siddhartha Nath

Email Address: s.nath@northeastern.edu

Office Hours: Fri 1-2p

### Instructor Biography

Sid is a Principal Machine Learning Scientist at Intel Corp since August 2022. Prior to that he was a Sr. Research Scientist at NVIDIA Corp. and Sr. Staff R&D and ML Lead at Synopsys Inc. His research focus is on applications of machine learning to chip design, combinatorial optimization and large-scale optimization. He has productized many ML solutions in chip design tools that have been used to fabricate chips by leading semiconductor design companies.

Sid obtained his Ph.D. in Computer Science and Engineering from UC San Diego in 2016. He was awarded the Powell Fellowship to further research in science and technology. He is a technical committee member of leading VLSI/CAD conferences and journals. Sid is an adjunct faculty at Northeastern University since Fall 2023, and he has taught Data Science Engineering Methods (INFO 6105). He is also an adjunct faculty at Santa Clara University where he teaches Design and Analysis of Algorithms at the graduate level.

### Teaching Assistant Information

Full Name: TBD)

Email Address: TBD

Office Hours: TBD

### Course Prerequisites

Basic mathematics, and knowledge of Python/Java/C/C++.

## Course Description

This course covers the fundamentals of designing data structures and the algorithms which manipulate them. This is an important class for any aspiring developer as data structures and algorithms are at the core of every application. The goal of the course is not only to teach the fundamentals of the subject, but also to give an understanding of why.

## Course Learning Outcomes

- A. Develop an approach to problem-solving at scale.*
- B. Utilize different strategies to develop and improve various algorithms.*
- C. Articulate the relationship between data structures, algorithms, and invariants.*
- D. Choose the most effective algorithm (e.g., dynamic programming) for a particular problem-solving task.*
- E. Develop an algorithm-first mindset to prepare for and excel at software interviews.*

## Required Tools and Course Textbooks.

*Introduction to algorithms* 4th edition, Cormen et al., ISBN: 978-0-262-53305-8, MIT Press 2022

## Course Schedule/Topics Covered.

Week	Date	In Class Topic	Assignment Due
1	WEEK1	Intro and basic data structures using Python	
2	WEEK2	Growth of functions, stacks, queues	
3	WEEK3	Sorting and solving recurrences	Quiz 1, HW1
4	WEEK4	Divide-and-conquer algorithms	
5	WEEK5	Graph data structures and algorithms - 1	Quiz 2
6	WEEK6	Graph data structures and algorithms - 2	Quiz 3, HW2
7	WEEK7	Tree data structures, traversals, binary heaps, heapsort	Quiz 4, HW3
8	WEEK8	Tries, midterm review	Midterm
9	WEEK9	Greedy algorithms - 1	
10	WEEK10	Greedy algorithms - 2	
11	WEEK11	Dynamic programming - 1	Quiz 5, HW4
12	WEEK12	Dynamic programming - 2	Quiz6
13	WEEK13	Dynamic programming - 3	Quiz7
14	WEEK14	Course review, final review	HW5
15	WEEK15	Final exam	

## Assignment Grading

- Attendance – >5 % (>80%)
- Homeworks – 25%
- Quizzes – 25%
- Midterm Exam – 20%
- Final Exam – 25%

**Grading Scale**  
(Subject to change based on MGEN guidelines)

95-100% A	87-89.9% B+	77-79.9% C+	69.9% or below F
	84-86.9% B	74-76.9% C	
90-94.9% A-	80-83.9% B-	70-73.9% C-	

**Attendance/Late Work Policy**

Attendance Policy

Students registered in MGEN courses (INFO, CSYE, and DAMG) are allowed **a maximum of 2 absences per course, with 3 or more absences resulting in an automatic 'F' for that course.** Students are expected to inform their instructors of any absences in advance of the class; if a student is sick long-term or experiences a medical issue that prevents class attendance, it is strongly encouraged that they speak with their Academic Advisor ([coe-mgen-gradadvising@northeastern.edu](mailto:coe-mgen-gradadvising@northeastern.edu)) to learn more about the Medical Leave of Absence. Should a student anticipate being unable to attend 3 or more classes, they should discuss their situation with their Academic Advisor to explore other types of leave in accordance with the University's academic and global entry expectations. International students should review the Office of Global Services webpage to understand their visa compliance requirements.

Teaching Assistants (TAs) or Instructional Assistants (IAs) will be present at each class to collect student attendance.

Late Work Policy

Students must submit assignments by the deadline in the time zone noted in the syllabus. Students must communicate with the faculty prior to the deadline if they anticipate work will be submitted late. Work submitted late without prior communication with faculty will not be graded.

**End-of-Course Evaluation Surveys**

Your feedback regarding your educational experience in this class is particularly important to the College of Engineering. Your comments will make a difference in the future planning and presentation of our curriculum.

At the end of this course, please take the time to complete the evaluation survey at <https://neu.evaluationkit.com>. Your survey responses are **completely anonymous and confidential**. For courses 6 weeks in length or shorter, surveys will be open one week prior to the end of the courses; for courses greater than 6 weeks in length, surveys will be open for two weeks. An email will be sent to your Northeastern University Mail account notifying you when surveys are available.

**Academic Integrity**

A commitment to the principles of academic integrity is essential to the mission of Northeastern University. The promotion of independent and original scholarship ensures that students derive the most from their educational experience and their pursuit of knowledge. Academic dishonesty violates the most

fundamental values of an intellectual community and undermines the achievements of the entire University.

As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their rights and responsibilities. In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, examinations of whatever kind, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Students are responsible for learning the conventions of documentation and acknowledgment of sources in their fields. Northeastern University expects students to complete all examinations, tests, papers, creative projects, and assignments of any kind according to the highest ethical standards, as set forth either explicitly or implicitly in this Code or by the direction of instructors.

Go to <http://www.northeastern.edu/osccr/academic-integrity-policy/> to access the full academic integrity policy.

### **MGEN Student Feedback**

Students who would like to provide the MGEN unit with anonymous feedback on this particular course, Teaching Assistants, Instructional Assistants, professors, or to provide general feedback regarding their program, may do so using this survey: [https://neu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cTIAbH7ZRaaW0Ki](https://neu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cTIAbH7ZRaaW0Ki)

### **University Health and Counseling Services**

As a student enrolled in this course, you are fully responsible for assignments, work, and course materials as outlined in this syllabus and in the classroom. Over the course of the semester if you experience any health issues, please contact UHCS.

For more information, visit <https://www.northeastern.edu/uahcs>.

### **Student Accommodations**

Northeastern University and the Disability Resource Center (DRC) are committed to providing disability services that enable students who qualify under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) to participate fully in the activities of the university. To receive accommodations through the DRC, students must provide appropriate documentation that demonstrates a current substantially limiting disability.

For more information, visit <https://drc.sites.northeastern.edu>.

### **Library Services**

The Northeastern University Library is at the hub of campus intellectual life. Resources include over 900,000 print volumes, 206,500 e-books, and 70,225 electronic journals.

For more information and for education specific resources, visit <https://library.northeastern.edu>  
Network Campus Library Services: [Northeastern University Library Global Campus Portals](#)

### **24/7 Canvas Technical Help**

For immediate technical support for Canvas, call 617-373-4357 or email [help@northeastern.edu](mailto:help@northeastern.edu)

Canvas Student Resources: <https://canvas.northeastern.edu/student-resources/>

For assistance with my Northeastern e-mail, and basic technical support:

Visit ITS at <https://its.northeastern.edu>

Email: [help@northeastern.edu](mailto:help@northeastern.edu)

ITS Customer Service Desk: 617-373-4357

### **Diversity and Inclusion**

Northeastern University is committed to equal opportunity, affirmative action, diversity, and social justice while building a climate of inclusion on and beyond campus. In the classroom, members of the University community work to cultivate an inclusive environment that denounces discrimination through innovation, collaboration, and an awareness of global perspectives on social justice.

Please visit <http://www.northeastern.edu/oidi/> for complete information on Diversity and Inclusion

### **Title IX**

*Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 protects individuals from sex or gender-based discrimination, including discrimination based on gender-identity, in educational programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance.*

Northeastern's Title IX Policy prohibits Prohibited Offenses, which are defined as sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship or domestic violence, and stalking. The Title IX Policy applies to the entire community, including male, female, transgender students, faculty, and staff.

In case of an emergency, please call 911.

*Please visit <https://www.northeastern.edu/ouec> for a complete list of reporting options and resources both on- and off-campus.*