Hours

Hours Motivation

We want to emphasize the importance of student collaboration whenever possible. Especially in a math-based course like CS22, collaborating and working on mathematics together is especially important. Rather than being led by a TA, we encourage students to work in small groups (whether in-person or remotely), and seeking help from a TA when necessary to make progress. We want hours to be a place for students to practice and hone their problem-solving skills with each other and not somewhere you acquire solutions to the weekly problem sets.

What to Expect at Hours

As stated above, hours are meant to be a place to work together to solve problems. Here’s what you should expect to see/do at hours:

- Work in small groups with other students to solve the homework problems.
- Get advice from a TA when your group gets stuck.
- Have general concepts from class reinforced by a TA.

Here’s what you shouldn’t expect to see at hours:

- Students who have already solved problems giving the solutions to other students.
- TAs leading lecture-style presentations that work through entire problems.
- Students working on typing up their finalized submissions.

Again, the emphasis is on collaboration and practicing problem-solving techniques, not finishing a problem set as quickly as possible.

- Read over the whole problem set before you come to hours. Have at least a general idea of the first steps you might take, even if you aren’t sure what will pan out.
- TAs cannot discuss extra credit problems with students, but you can post about them on EdStem.
- Do not discuss topics that are outside the scope of the course during hours.
- Due to the collaborative nature of hours, no photo-taking or screenshots are permitted. Additionally, no student should have any writeups pulled up (i.e. no Overleaf allowed). Laptops may only be used to view homework problems.
- Taking notes on your own is permitted. Keep in mind that every final weekly submission must be the student’s own work.

We reserve the right to add/remove policies as necessary to keep collaboration hours as effective as possible.

Hours Logistics

You can find a calendar of TA hours on our website.

Unless specified otherwise, most hours will be in-person without any hybrid component. We will offer two (solely) remote hour sessions per week, and students who need to attend remotely should attend said hours. The schedule will be documented in the calendar. In addition, Rob’s hours will be accessible to both in-person and remote students.

Since CS22’s hours are heavily collaborative, we hope that students are able to most easily interact with one another during hours. Separating in-person and remote students allow the maximum amount of collaboration amongst students without the overhead of hybrid learning. Over Zoom, students can utilize breakout rooms and virtual whiteboarding. In-person, students are able to gather in small groups to solve problems and utilize physical whiteboards. We will adjust this policy as we deem fit throughout the semester.
Recitation

Recitation Motivation
Recitation is a space where you work with a group of 4-5 students each week to reinforce concepts taught in lecture, in preparation for the homework. We want students to have a sense of community, and to be able to practice problem solving in a casual environment without requiring the formality of proofs necessary on weekly homework sets. Recitations are mandatory and are graded on completion.

Recitation Logistics
Recitation packets will be available on the course site before each week’s recitation. Students may choose to work in \LaTeX (like Overleaf), in a shared Google Doc file, or on paper.

At recitation, you’ll have the chance to work with your TAs to meet other students, hone your understanding of concepts learned in lecture, practice solving problems related to the homework, and explore any questions related to the course material that excite you.

For the same reasons detailed above for hours, the majority of recitation sessions will be solely in-person, with one remote recitation held each week. This allows students to best work with one another.

What if I can’t make my regular recitation time?
Since we expect students to attend their regularly assigned recitations in person, we are requiring that you inform us (via this form) ahead of time if you are going to be late or miss a recitation. Needing to attend remotely also falls under this category.

If you have a one-time appointment that conflicts with your regular recitation time, fill out the form and indicate one of these two options:

- Attend a different recitation within the same week. (Note: if your preferred section is unavailable, HTAs will reach out to you and assign you to a different one based on your availability)

- Work on the recitation packet on your own time, and get it checked off during next week’s recitation.

If the conflict will be more regular, email the HTAs and we’ll get you rescheduled.

If you miss recitation or are more than 10 minutes late to recitation without indicating so by completing the form, you will be capped at half-credit for said recitation (even if you get recitation checked off later in your own time). There is no penalty if you do inform course staff of any absences ahead of time. This is to ensure it remains easy for us to balance recitation sizes, and to ensure fairness to students and your group mates who do show up to recitation on time.

What if our group doesn’t finish the whole packet in time?
You can keep working on it on your own time (either together or separately), and get checked off during your next recitation. We ask that you do so at the end of recitation when you have finished with the current week’s recitation.

Partial credit will be given for mostly completed recitations if students have demonstrated appropriate effort.

When is the latest a recitation can be checked off?
The time when you are scheduled for your next recitation. Usually, this is the week after it takes place. (See the above two questions.)