

COMP 3803

Introduction to Theory of Computation

Fall 2025

Instructor: Michiel Smid

Office: Herzberg Building 5125C.

Email: michiel@scs.carleton.ca

Course webpage: <http://cglab.ca/~michiel/3803.html>

- Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday, 2:35 – 3:55
- Classrooms: Check Carleton Central
- All lectures will be in-person, they will not be video-recorded.

Teaching assistants: A list of teaching assistants will be posted on the course webpage once the course starts.

Office hours: Will be posted on the course webpage once the course starts.

Prerequisite: COMP 2804

Department/Unit: School of Computer Science

Topics covered:

- Theoretical aspects of computer science. Topics include: formal languages and automata theory, computability theory.
- A tentative week-by-week schedule will be posted on the course webpage.

Learning Materials:

- Free textbook: Anil Maheshwari and Michiel Smid, Introduction to Theory of Computation
<http://cglab.ca/~michiel/TheoryOfComputation/>
- Students are not required to purchase textbooks or other learning materials for this course.

Assessment scheme:

- Test 1 (in class, Thursday October 9): 16%
- Test 2 (in class, Thursday October 30): 17%
- Test 3 (in class, Thursday November 20): 17%
- Final exam: 50%

Late and Missed Work Policies: Any missing test will be covered by the final exam.

Undergraduate Academic Advisors: The Undergraduate Advisors for the School of Computer Science are available in Room 5302HP; or by email at

`scs.ug.advisor@cunet.carleton.ca`

The undergraduate advisors can assist with information about prerequisites and preclusions, course substitutions/equivalencies, understanding your academic audit and the remaining requirements for graduation. The undergraduate advisors will also refer students to appropriate resources such as the Science Student Success Centre, Learning Support Services and Writing Tutorial Services.

Academic Accommodations and Regulations: Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes are outlined on the Academic Accommodations website

`https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline/`

Statement on Chat GPT/Generative AI usage: Since all graded assessments are in-person tests and final exam, this section is not applicable to this course.

Statement on Academic Integrity: Misconduct in scholarly activity will not be tolerated and will result in consequences as outlined in Carleton University's Academic Integrity Policy, see

`https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/`

A list of standard sanctions in the Faculty of Science can be found at

`https://science.carleton.ca/students/academic-integrity/`

Additional details about this process can be found on the Faculty of Science Academic Integrity website. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and abide by Carleton University's Academic Integrity Policy.

School of Computer Science Laptop Requirement: Every student that has been enrolled in a 1000-level (i.e., first year) course offered is required to have a laptop. This includes COMP1001, COMP1005, and COMP1006. For more information, please visit

<https://carleton.ca/scs/scs-laptop-requirement/>

and then review the requirements at

<https://carleton.ca/scs/scs-laptop-requirement/laptop-specs/>

SCS Computer Laboratory: Students taking a COMP course can access the SCS computer labs. The lab schedule and location can be found at

<https://carleton.ca/scs/tech-support/computer-laboratories/>

All SCS computer lab and technical support information can be found at

<https://carleton.ca/scs/tech-support/>

Technical support staff may be contacted in-person or virtually, see this page for details:

<https://carleton.ca/scs/tech-support/contact-it-support/>

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Students are expected to act responsibly and engage respectfully with other students and members of the Carleton and the broader community. See the 7 Rights and Responsibilities Policy for details regarding the expectations of non-academic behaviour of students. Those who participate with another student in the commission of an infraction of this Policy will also be held liable for their actions.