

COMP 4801

Algorithms for Data Mining, Web and Social Networks

Fall 2026

Instructor: Anil Maheshwari

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Course webpage: <https://people.scs.carleton.ca/~anil>

- Lectures: Wednesday and Friday, 11:35 – 12:55
- Classrooms: Check Carleton Central
- All lectures will be in-person, no video-recording.

Teaching assistants: Details about TA Office Hours etc. will be posted on the course webpage once the course starts.

Office hours: Friday's 13:15-14:15 PM in 5125b HP

Prerequisite: A minimum grade of B+ in COMP 2804 is required to register in this course. This course covers a broad range of topics and techniques in the design and analysis of algorithms. Students are expected to have a strong foundation in the analysis of algorithms, including asymptotic notation, recurrences, and complexity analysis; elementary probability, including expectation and indicator random variables (as covered in COMP 2804); basic data structures, including lists, trees, and hashing; and discrete mathematics, including counting, permutations and combinations, and standard proof techniques such as induction and contradiction. There will be little or no time to review this prerequisite material, so a solid understanding of these topics is essential for following and fully benefiting from the course.

Note: This course was previously offered as COMP 3801. Students who have already completed COMP 3801 are not eligible to receive credit for this course.

Department/Unit: School of Computer Science

Topics covered:

- Algorithmic design techniques for modern data sets arising in, for example, data mining, web analytics, epidemic spreads, search engines and social networks. Topics may

include data mining, hashing, streaming, clustering, recommendation systems, link analysis, dimensionality reduction, online, social networking, game theoretic and probabilistic algorithms.

- A tentative week-by-week schedule will be posted on the course webpage.

Learning Materials:

- Mining of Massive Datasets (MMDS) by Leskovec, Rajaraman, Ullman
<http://www.mmids.org/>
- Discrete Structures for Computer Science: Counting, Recursion, and Probability by Michiel Smid
<https://cglab.ca/~michiels/DiscreteStructures/>
- Anil Maheshwari's Notes on Topics in Algorithm Design (we refer to them as "Notes")
<https://people.scs.carleton.ca/~maheshwa/Notes/DAA/notes.pdf>
- For project ideas, look for conferences such as WWW, KDD, Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery, WSDM, ICLR, ICML.
- Students are not required to purchase textbooks or other learning materials for this course.

Assessment scheme:

- Test 1 (in class, Friday October 09): 12.5%
- Test 2 (in class, Friday November 13): 12.5%
- Project (with different components spread over the term): 50%
For projects, if you wish you can form a team of two.
 1. Written Project Proposal (10%): Due by Sept 30
 2. 3-Minute Project Proposal Presentation (5%): Friday, Oct 2nd Class
 3. End-of-Term presentation on projects (15%): Scheduled within the last 3 weeks of classes.
 4. Project Report (20%): A couple of days before your end-of-term project presentation.
- Final Exam: 25%

Late and Missed Work Policies: Any missed tests 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 Generative AI usage:

Since all Tests and Final Exams are in-person, this section does not apply to this component of the course. For the Project, students need to come up with a project. They can use suitable resources from the web and software libraries, and utilize generative AI for implementation, with appropriate citations. They will be making a presentation in the class on the Project, as well as demo their experimental work, write a short report, and hence, they need to be well-versed with all aspects of their projects. The emphasis and the evaluation is based on whether they can incorporate elements of the course in their project design, implementation, and experimentation.

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 behavior 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.