Course Information

Lecturer:	Prof. Ronald L. Rivest NE43-324, 3–5880 Office Hours by appointment
Teaching Assistant:	Yoav Yerushalmi NE43-334, 3–5866 `yoav@mit.edu` Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday 4:00 - 5:00 P.M.
Secretary:	Be (Hubbard) Blackburn NE43-322, 3–6098 `be@theory.lcs.mit.edu`

1 Prerequisites

The prerequisites for the course are 6.033 (*Computer System Engineering*) and 6.042J (*Mathematics for Computer Science*). It is also recommended that students have had 6.046J and some experience with modular arithmatic.

2 Units

This is a 12-unit (3-0-9) U-level course intended primarily for seniors and first-year graduate students. (Graduate students will *not* receive H–credit for this class.)

3 Lectures

Lectures will be held in Room 37-212 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30 to 4:00 P.M. Students are expected to attend all lectures.

4 Handouts and course notebook

Handouts will be available at the beginning of lecture. If you fail to obtain a handout in lecture, you can get a copy in the class file cabinet outside room NE43-311. If you take the last copy of a handout, please inform the course secretary so that more copies can be made. Also, handouts will be made available online (if possible) through the web page.

5 The class on line

We have a Web page at

`http://web.mit.edu/6.857/www/home.html`

We also have a course locker on Athena. In order to access the locker type `attach 6.857` at your Athena prompt and then `cd /mit/6.857`.

There is also a mailing list `6.857-students@mit.edu` which will be used to send out last-minute announcements. Please check your e-mail regularly if possible.

We will use the Web page and the Athena course locker to make handouts and lecture notes available on line.

6 Textbook

There is no recommended or required textbook for this course. As the material covered is broad and usually very new. There will, however, be reading handouts.

7 Homework

Problem sets will be assigned on approximately a weekly basis. They will be handed out on Thursday and be due on the following Thursday. Late homework will **not** be accepted. If you can't make it to class when a problem set is due, turn it in early at the course secretary's office.

8 Lecture Notes

At the beginning of each lecture, one student should volunteer to take notes for the lecture. Templates for the notes can be found in `/mit/6.857/lectures/`, and are done in LaTex. Any student who has taken a good set of notes for the lecture will have his lowest problem set score dropped from the final grade computation.

9 Term project

Students will be responsible for a term project. The nature and the topic of the project is your choice, although it needs the teaching staff approval. A proposal for your term project is due before *November 5th*, and the project is due on *December 10th*. This project will be done in groups of two to four students each, and may involve some implementation or research.

10 Grading

Besides weekly problem sets and the final project the class will have a midterm exam. Grading will be as follows: 30% each the problem sets, the midterm and the final project. The remaining 10% will be for class participation (including scribing of the lecture notes). Write well; your writing style is a factor in determining your grade. There is *no* final exam.

11 Collaboration

You may collaborate in study groups for the solutions of homeworks. You must, however, write up solutions on your own. If you do collaborate, acknowledge your collaborators in the write-up for each problem. If you obtain a solution with help (e.g., through library work), acknowledge your source, and write up the solutions on your own. Plagiarism and other anti-intellectual behavior will be dealt with severely.

No collaboration is permitted on the take–home midterm quiz.