**Contributions to final grade:** 60% problem sets, 40% final exam or project.

**Problem Sets:** There will be 5 problem sets, each consisting of 5 – 10 problems. Each problem set will be graded out of **60 points**, for a total of **300 points**.

Each problem set may contain **1 or 2 bonus questions**, which will be worth between **5 and 10 points** of extra credit. Bonus questions are unique in that they must be solved alone and you cannot receive hints or help from TAs or course instructors. You can (and should) ask clarifying questions or let us know if you think there's a bug/ or mistake in the problem!

The bonus questions are intended to be challenging and interesting. While the standard problem set is meant to provide review and practice for ideas discussed in lecture, the bonus questions will require substantial creativity and new insight.

**Final Exam or Project:** Every student must complete *either* a final exam or final project, which will be worth **200 points**. For the final project, you may work alone or in pairs and will explore an algorithmic idea beyond the scope of the lectures. This is a great opportunity to get a taste of algorithms research, or to apply methods and techniques from the class to a problem that you are interested in. We will release more information on the exam and project later in the semester.

**Late Policy:** The semester can get busy and we understand that it may be difficult to turn every assignment in on time. To this end, we allow every student **4 "cheat days"** during the semester. Every day that you are late on a problem set, you lose one of your cheat days. You may use these days to turn four different problem sets in one day late, or you may use multiple cheat days on one problem set. Due to university restrictions on end of the semester work, cheat days *may not be used for the final project or exam.*

After your cheat days are exhausted, any late problem set will accrue a 10% penalty per day that it is late. For example, if you score a 50/60 on a problem set, but turned it in 2 days late, you will receive a score of $.8 * 50/60 = 40/60$.