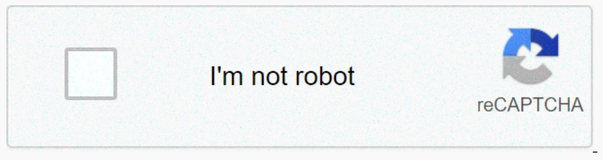

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Eecs 280 umich course guide

As a student, I have to make a difficult decision twice a year as to which classes to register in the next term of office. Unfortunately, a section of the LSA course guide is not enough to get a real scoop in class. The best source of information are people who have already taken class, but if all your friends are at the same point in college as you that don't work. Here's my comment on some of the classes I've taken umich. Hopefully it will help with the choice of class. Warning: you're not me, so your grinder is my different. Table of Contents EECS Course workload study EECS 280 EECS 280 point is to take you from beginner to intermediate programming capability. The course is basically a bunch of lectures and 4-5 projects (no homework!!!). One part of this involves linked lists, functional programming and recursion (I would recommend reading the structure and interpretation of Computers Programs if your account of that stuff). The second part includes C with cursors, char letters, and all the bloody details of manual management stuff (in this part of the class, learning how to use valgrind is useful). The last part includes C++ and object-oriented design (I'm less than found in C++ so I don't like this part. Learn Java if you want to make an OOP like a normal person). If you are already programming for a few years and know C++ then the class is simple. I finished some projects only over the weekend and the only thing that had a lot of work was the Euchre project. I'm still new programming, then this is a class for you. Some topics like repetition and references are confusing at first, but nothing in the classroom kills you. In I took EECS 280, one of the professors (whose research is driverless cars) taught a section called EECS 280X. This section covered more advanced topics (e.g. vtables) and sought to provide motivation as to why C++ is designed as it is. Unfortunately, I have heard that this experimental version was offered only once (I have slides + lecture recordings somewhere if you are interested). This class textbook is a brick. If you know that C++ can already do without it. If you don't know C++ I would recommend reading something expedited C++ Andrew Koenig instead (disclosure: I haven't read the book, but I used to read the author's blog by Andrew Koenig – Dr. Dobbs magazine so I know he's a good technical writer). EECS 203 The purpose of this class is to teach all the boring mathematics you need to know to understand the material of future classes. Actually, I'm unfair, the material's good, it's just a presentation. My roommate said, I fell like it was a good class if it was taught in the math department instead. Every week there are homework that can get tedious. Fortunately, most problems are a simple plug and chug. I forget that if they have you to print homework, but made a suggestion: do not use Word or Google Docs for it! Save yourself pain later by studying LaTex now. In EECS 376 they make you write all your evidence, but in this class problems can actually be difficult. I use an online service called ShareLatex which nicely polished. It even has support for vim and emacs keyboard shortcuts. If you really do not want to learn latex go to Google Docs because its equation editor is easier to use than Word (it supports some LaTex). Here again, the textbook is a brick. This is one of those books that has its own bazillinth edition and has pointless biographies of dead mathematicians to pad their page count and price tag. I left the book in my dorm for a whole semester, and I only used it for homework. In the lecture (looking at the open laptops of the people in front of me) I saw that half the class had found pdf copies online. If you want an actual book instead of a paperweight, I can guarantee discrete mathematics in computer science and McAllister's only $3 on Amazon (Rosen is $147). Also, MIT OCW has some nice lecture overlapping material. Math 217 I lied, this is not EECS class. This means that this class can replace the Math 214 engineering requirement wise. You should know it's a different class. It uses the so-called query-based learning method. Instead of listening to lectures in class, we did collaborative work that had to guide us to discover important results in the linear algebra itself. Linear algebra as a topic is much easier than math (all you have to do is add and multiply). That means math 217 is a lot of work! Every week there is an online plug and chug assignment pen and paper problem set, and a handful of evidence you should write. Oh, and I forgot about the weekly quizzes. If you don't have a lot of background in math theory, this class is hard. Some of the other engineering students in my section dropped out after a few weeks. Have you been scared yet? Don't be. The impression I got is that the mathematics department decided to make it to class, where all hard evidence techniques and abstract thinking stuff can be taught to start math majors. They expect you not to know much and do much to help. Specifically, you can sign up for a Google page and meet someone who's taken an hour in the past to get feedback on your evidence before you give them to you. There are other classes like EECS 203 that try to teach evidence of technique, but since they are all giant lectures you don't get any specific feedback. In math 217, the sections are only ~ 20 people (less if you are in the 8:30 section), so you get a lot of feedback. It's one of my favorite classes in umich. If you like math (abstract not plug and chug kind) and want to learn how to write evidence, be sure to take this class. Recent comments: If you are on the waiting list (for example, was) don't worry. Someone who doesn't know what they're getting in is likely to drop. The textbook's fine, you should have it. Get a real hard copy. Bootleg versions online suck because they are scanned. Math books in general, its useful flip back and forth between different parts. Books are not brick so carrying it around is not a problem. Mathematics 286 (with comments on Mathematics 185, Mathematics 186, and Mathematics 285) This class is part of the praises calculus in the complex. In my opinion, this is a hidden gem in a classy. I've always heard people complain there's a horrible calc class taught by some clumsy GSI no one understands. All the lessons in this jab are taught by real professors who know things there. I can't promise that you will be able to understand them or material all the time (sorry Shuang), but all three professors I had nice and went out of their way to help everyone. Also, the class is very generously curved as long as you're almost average, you get an A. If you have good math, it's probably easier to get an A in this class than normal calc classes. The weight of these classes is in the material, not in the workload. For Math 286 in particular (because it's 3 credits vs. 4 normal differential equations (Math 216?)) is less work, but because it's an honor they go over the material faster so you finally learn more (someone I knew that the usual differential equations told me that they were always a few weeks behind us). The reason these classes are hidden gems is you get Stephen DeBacker's permission to take them. I took Math 185 and 186 in high school and all I had to do was talk to him and show that I kind of knew what I was getting into and that I liked pure math (I get the impression that he doesn't like computer science. Q: Is it cheating a person to use a computer to solve math problems? A: Is it cheating to have a human program on a computer? I also remember him going for some long rants about how to have another computer science bubble). If you take one class in a jad, you are almost guaranteed a spot in the following ones. For one thing, autumn is usually 2-3 sections and winter party class finishes because they learn that college math is harder than they thought. I joined Math 286 1-2 weeks late because I had signed up for the controversial class I finally dropped. The professor was completely calm and I had no trouble joining late. A nice extra 185-285 is that they all cover some linear algebra in addition to calculus. Differential equations use some linear algebra, so having Math 217 with Math 286 is useful but not necessary. The Math 185/186 textbook is amazingly well written. It's one of the few that I decided to keep. First week class at Amazon and Ulrich's were out, but there are edition floating around online, so it wasn't a big deal. Math 285 had a terrible textbook. Math 286 was a pretty good textbook that wasn't too much to think about. I recommend paper to all of them. Also, I forgot to mention, Professor Math 185 brought insomnia cookies to class once and the NYPD pizza final review session. The math 286 professor brought a class of Washtenaw Dairy doughnuts. It shows what good taste they have (other math department events I've had are mediocre Cottage Inn pizza instead). If there's one reason to accept this class, it's the people. They are cut above their average wolverine (one of my classmates writes every three weeks) EECS 475 I am biased in favor of this class because cryptography is one of my long-standing interests. This means that this class is a fun elective if you enjoy the intersection of mathematics and computer science. The only official precondition is EECS 280, which makes it one of the few upper classes you can take before EECS 281. Since most work is in the form of a problem set, it is good for the class to take simultaneously something difficult like EECS 281. Chris Piekart is a good professor. He's always well prepared and gives clear lectures. Many EEC professors (cough cough 280 and 281) depend a lot on PowerPoint. Chris writes everything out of the white board, which means he actually has to remember everything he's going to say. One downside is that lecture recordings are not great (from what I've heard), but you should attend the lecture anyway and not watch shitty recordings. I haven't had Compton in any class, but from what I've heard he's just as good. The main focus of this class is on security definitions and reductions (this helps with 376). This focus provides abstract proof of the difficult class - the EECS. Formizing cryptography to make it more than just black magic is a good science and I learned a lot about what modern cryptography is all about, but I was a little disappointed that the class doesn't include that many examples of attacks against real world systems. I suspect this is due to Piekart's teaching class. A few years ago, when Kevin Fu taught a class, Syllabus said that the latest project was to carry out attacks on a bunch of ciphers, so the level of theory probably varies from professor. Anyway, formal security reduction is harder to learn than attacks, so the theory of focus probably taught me more. If you're intrested attacks look at Matasano cryptopals challenges. The textbook class is above average and does not take up too much space. EECS 281 This is one of the most useful classes I have taken in U of M (EECS 482 is the second). Almost all EECS classes I've had since used at least some material. People joke that EECS 281 is a job interview class because of a lot of interview questions EECS 281 style algorithm problems. Having had some interviews now, I can confirm that. This is a class that we umbed out at real CS students from everyone else. I know someone who claims he traded majors for data science for this class. If you make it through, you can claim to be a legit (or at least mediocre) programmer. Although 281 is useful, I would not describe it as fun. It is not difficult to apply projects correctly, but it is the whole time and memory constraints. There is a leader on the board that will monitor who is the fastest solution to the projects. When I started the class I thought it would be fun to see how high the finder board I could get. What I quickly learned is that optimizing the C++ code is not something I'm interested in. I ended up on the leader board a few times anyway (mostly because I started and finished projects early), but my advice is not to worry about losing a point or two at speed and go out and enjoy the fall instead. Compared to spending a long weekend implementing a tying heap, waiting a few extra seconds for your program to run is nothing. It is important to optimize the time of the person - not the computer. Darden and Paoletti are honorable academics. The last time I looked at the rate of my professors, they had some of the highest ratings I've ever seen. I've had a lot of professors with lower ratings who are at least as good, if not better, so I think Paoletti and Darden are a little overrated. My only beef with them is that they are part of the C++ cult and proselytize the mythical status of EECS 381. Excuse me while I go to tangent for a second. Here's a top rant by the creator of Linux to throw some ice water into the C++ parade (don't take it too seriously). Google and Mozilla both came up with their programming languages, Go and Rust, to replace the existing C++ code bases, which were huge unmaintuous. C++ is no longer a general language. Its standard library does not have any networking support and is not a convenient repl to use just playing around. No more wrists. I've been programming C++ since I was a freshman in high school, and didn't have some appreciation for the language. Remember that most of the time there are better options. The textbook doesn't use the class very much, but I would recommend getting it just because every computer scientist should have at least one book algorithm. CLRS is pretty standard elsewhere than I've heard and is of high quality (Ron Rivest co inventor of RSA is one of the cover authors!!!). If you want to be a software developer and don't care about proof of authenticity, you might want to look elsewhere for more applied reading material. Digital versions are available in the library, so you can use them in the worst case scenario. EECS 370 EECS 370 is a class that teaches all CS how computers actually work. This is one of my personal favorites and talking to other people, I'm not alone in this sentiment. Projects are short and there are only ~4 homework tasks throughout the semester, so the workload is not bad. The only problem is that the material takes time to digest and projects are harder to smooth out to EECS 281's. This class is good preparation for EECS 388 (buffer overflow section) and EECS 482. The lowest level of EECS classes, you can get away with not reading the textbook. That's not the case here. There are some online textbook mini quizzes in this class. Most of the time I hate online textbooks because they are poorly assembled pieces of junk that are a pain to use compared to pdfs or plain old paper, but Zybooks people actually got a prescription ebooks right (probably because they actually have background computers unlike textbook companies like Pearson). In addition, the lecture slides in EECS 370 is amazing. PowerPoints has all sorts of diagrams for processor data that has color coding, and must be worn out forever. Most PowerPoints are garbage, but this class sets the gold standard. EECS 388 If you are looking for a fun class that doesn't have as much work to take on something like EECS 482, this class is the perfect choice. The best description of what I've thought about is the class is the computer security buffet. The class had items in various areas of computer security, including cryptography, SQL injection, cross-site scripting, network scanning, buffer overflow, forensics, and many other topics. The emphasis is definitely over the depth, so class is not that heavy. This means that you are expected to go on to learn a bunch of maybe new languages like Python and JavaScript itself – which some lazy people have problems doing. Like most EECS classes, lectures are so and projects are where the real fun is. Each project has its own taste, which is a nice change for most other EECS classes. Some of them have extra credit challenges that adds fun (I tried to do as much as possible). Blind SQL injections and linked list of those are worth doing, while callback kes and ROP ones are only worth it if you are willing to spend/waste half a day gdb. For a lecture on government surveillance, we had a guest speaker - Edward Snowden! He was piped over by some Google Hangout clone from Moscow and the class got to ask him questions. The speech he gave touched most of the same points his others have, but Q and A was one of sorts. Because of the time difference, the only morning lecture is going to be to see him. Course staff didn't report who the speaker was supposed to be ahead of time, so I didn't bother skipping EECS 376 to go to the morning lecture. By the afternoon, the news started circulating and all the people The morning lecture began to strike with regret. There was a video that appeared on YouTube, but the last time I checked, it was taken down. Morality of the story: when Halderman says there's going to be a guest speaker, don't leave it like I did. Since the projects are simple, the grades in the class are decided by the final exam (no midterm). The first page of the final said: Security is difficult. So is this exam. Don't panic (or anything like that). In preparation I made a 20-page review guide. It had to work because I finished the record final. (Tangens: getting an IA at U of M is surprisingly difficult. Even with the highest score in the final, I still couldn't get one) The best result you should write your guide, but if you're lazy here is mine: EECS 388 Final Review Guide. Last note, over the last few semesters the class has been divided into several lecturers - unlike all the other EECS classes I have taken. One side effect is that you might have someone but a normal professor for a few lectures. In the semester I took 388, Kyle Lady (who works for Duo Security) taught ~1/3 class including part lock picking. EECS 376 Many people have strong (often negative) feelings about this class. I spoke to the former iA and he said he had to deal with a bunch of seniors who threw whimsy tantrums because they had problems with the material and didn't want to take class. The usual complaint is this class is a difficult theoretical thing that I never use, so why do I have to take it? If your life plan is to become a web developer, then that's understandable. That means suck it in. No one's going to make you take this class or study computer science. This is a university where classes should be difficult. If you don't like it and want to be a programmer, you can drop out and read JavaScript for Dummies. This class should teach what you want calculation is anyway and how different problems are related to each other. It can be difficult to mathematically contest, but at least not boring as EECS 203. I've heard that this class changes from semester to semester more than most other basic computer science classes. The ability to organize a class depends on who teaches it. I had Schoenebeck and I later heard that he forced course staff to check the problem kit every week to make them more difficult. Maybe you'll be happy and have a simpler problem with the set, but if not, at least you'll know something about FFT. In terms of substance, the start of EECS 376 is useful because it involves dynamic programming is more comprehensive than EECS 281. After that, it's just a bunch of reduction reduction up to the end, where they involve turing machines and finally RSA. The reductions themselves can get a little boring and repetitive, but nice you have to encounter a lot of problems (min cut, tipu kate, integer partitioning, coloring ....). Going to class, I was expecting to get turing machines, but the NP completeness and RSA proved more interesting. The textbook is brick because it involves dozens (hundreds??) of various computational problems and algorithms. Finally, there are chapters on a quantum computer that sounds exciting. I tried reading one but I gave up (someone I know has a quantum computer yet, so who cares anyway). Except it's a brick, I think the book is pretty good. Written by Adrian Stoll on 29 Apr 2017 Updated Nov 2017 2017

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