Welcome To CMPU 240 — 
Language Theory and Computation 
Vassar College, Spring ’17

Course: CS 240 — Foundations of Computer Science 
Lecture: W / F 12:00–1:15 PM, meetings in SP 105. 
Website URL: http://www.cs.vassar.edu/~cs240

Course Description
Study of regular sets, context free grammars and languages, finite and push-down automata, as well as more powerful models of computation, such as Turing machines. Provides theoretical foundations for CMPU 331.
Prerequisites: CMPU 102 and CMPU 145.

Your Professor: Eric Aaron 
Website: http://www.cs.vassar.edu/~eaaron 
Office: SP 305 
Office Hours: Tu 1:30–2:30 PM / Th 3:30–4:30 PM, and by email appointment (but may change) 
Phone/Voicemail: (845) 437-7293 
E-mail: eaaron@cs.vassar.edu 
NB: The above email address is the best way to contact me.

Course Coaches 
George Whiteside — gewhiteside@vassar.edu 
Coaching hours TBA

Your textbook

Grading: Your grades for the course will be computed (roughly) based on
• Problem Sets: 40–50%
• Exams (2 ± 1 midterms; 1 regularly scheduled final exam): 45–55%
• Class Participation

The above percentages may be changed slightly if administrative concerns demand it.
Lectures and Classroom Accountability

All students are responsible for **ALL** information given in class, whether or not it is presented in any other form (handout, course website, textbook, etc.). Thus, although lecture attendance is not mandatory, it is strongly encouraged, and it is essential that students who miss lecture consult classmates and find out about any information—aademic, administrative, or other—that they missed. There may be severe, unintended consequences for students who do not keep up with all information from class. It is your responsibility to see that this does not happen to you. The easiest way to ensure it: Attend every lecture. (If low lecture attendance becomes a problem, your professor reserves the right to make lecture attendance mandatory for the remainder of the course.)

Students are also advised to use class lecture notes and the course textbook as complementary sources of information; in cases of discrepancy, please notify your professor immediately.

As a courtesy to your classmates and your instructors, the use of computers, tablets, mobile phones, wearables, or other electronic devices during lectures is discouraged. If for any reason it is important that you use such a device during lecture, please talk to me about how we can best accommodate you.

Homework Policies

Homework assignments are typically due at the beginning of class (12:00 noon) on the specified due date and should be turned in directly to me; such assignments received after the beginning of class may be considered late (in particular, assignments left in my office after I leave it for class, whenever that might be, will be considered late). **Late assignments will not be accepted for credit** (but please turn them in anyway—see below!).

When computing your final grade for the course, your lowest homework score **from among the homeworks that were turned in (on time or late)** will be dropped.

As with all policies, homework policies are intended to be fair to everyone involved in the course. They will be enforced fairly. Please feel free to ask me any questions about specific cases that may emerge over the semester.

Statement regarding Accessibility and Educational Opportunity

Academic accommodations are available for students registered with the Office for Accessibility and Educational Opportunity. Students in need of ADA/504 accommodations should schedule an appointment with me early in the semester to discuss any accommodations for this course that have been approved by the Office for Accessibility and Educational Opportunity, as indicated in your AEO accommodation letter.

Policy on Collaboration and Academic Integrity

Collaboration will not be allowed on exams, unless explicitly indicated by the instructor. There may also be homework exercises on which collaboration is forbidden; such exercises will be explicitly noted by your professor. In other instances, however, collaboration will be permitted.

On homework exercises where collaboration is permitted, you are encouraged to discuss **approaches** to solving problems **on a general level** with your classmates (as well as your professor and your Coach, of course!). You **may not**, however, discuss specifics with your classmates, and the expression of your answer and your written work must be entirely your own. As part of this, in cases of collaboration, if you know the answer and a classmate does not, telling them the answer is a violation of class policy; if a classmate needs further assistance, he or she should see your professor or a Coach.

Receiving and copying solutions from any source (a classmate, a friend, a published text, an online source, etc.) is disallowed; unless explicitly permitted, using proofs or other material as “inspiration” and submitting highly derivative solutions is viewed as copying. (Please read *Going to the Source: A Guide to Academic Integrity and Attribution at Vassar College*, available from
Vassar’s Dean of the College website.) In general, on assignments, using any resources (electronic or print, online or otherwise) other than those explicitly permitted as course resources is prohibited. Furthermore, on each submitted assignment, you should always cite and acknowledge sources from which you receive assistance, including your textbook, your Coaches, your classmates, or other people.

In general, the highest level of academic integrity is expected of every student in this class. If there are any questions about collaboration or related policies, please come talk with me!