

Randomized Algorithms (INFR11089)

SCQF credits: leave at 10

Syllabus:

Want to remove the "Randomization in Online Computation" section entirely.

I want to add "bounding mixing time" under the "Random Walks and Markov chains" heading.

Learning and Teaching activities:

I want to add "tutorial hours 5" in here (taking those away from the "Independent Learning" section

Assessment: Want to change this to "Written exam 80%, Coursework 20%"

Reasons:

(i) for the change to Syllabus I want to remove "Randomization in Online Computation" section because I'm not teaching it.

According to my PhD student, Ilias (who designed the syllabus) did not cover it either! For adding "mixing time" under the

"Markov chains" heading, really there's no point in showing the other stuff if we don't at least touch on the issue of time-to-converge.

(ii) For the tutorials, a few students have told me independently "I am struggling and need more help". I asked whether it would be good to add 4-5 tutorials in the "mid-semester" questionnaire and out of about 20 responses, all but 2 say "YES". I am devoting 2 lecture slots to informal tutorials, but it's not a lot. 5 scheduled tutorials is an extra resource but they need it.

(iii) Coursework change: We are only allowed one summative coursework in a 10-point course, and I think it's too much weight to be riding on a single submission. Also a couple of students have made this point - they found the first (formative) coursework tough and are worried about going into the exam with a "deficit" if they struggle with the summative one. The summative one just being released now is a bit easier (I think), but some students (esp. ug4s with projects to submit) will struggle to get a good submission in.

The 30% is a legacy from the days of 3 summative cwks, and I wanted to reduce it last year, but was too late (as RC had not been running that year, and I didn't know I would get it)

So I think 20% is a better weighting.