Welcome to CSCA08H! This is an Introduction to Computer Programming at UTSC. By the end of this course, you should be comfortable with procedural programming in Python and be familiar with core computer science topics like algorithms and complexity.

Successful students from past terms agree that the keys to this course are (1) frequent practice and (2) being active in the community. First, try to read or write Python code every day – if only for a few minutes – rather than putting exercises and assignments off to the last minute. This will make lectures easier to understand and will also give you plenty of time to ask questions. Second, make friends with your colleagues around you in lecture and in your lab (practical). You will also see many of the people in this class in other courses this semester as well as the rest of your time here, so work with each other on the discussion board, form study groups, and look for departmental seminars and social events.

The course website is required reading and is available through Intranet or directly at:

https://www.cs.utoronto.ca/~giovanna/cscA08/

The website contains important information: assignment handouts, a discussion board, and more. Intranet also includes your gradebook; all of your marks in this course will be posted there.

The website links to a discussion board that should be your first stop for CSCA08 information. I will post important updates and announcements there, so make sure to visit the board often. In addition, each of you can post questions – and answers – so theEach will take place in Wednesday lecture and will cover material from recent lectures, labs, and assignments discussion board will typically be the fastest way to get help with course material or to obtain an answer to an administrative question. Please become active on the board; it will work best if everyone posts questions and replies.

Please do not post solution code on the board. If the code you have a question about is for an assignment or from codelab, please generate new code to demonstrate your question, rather than posting the assignment code. Alternately, you can phrase your question abstractly, without posting the code itself.

Each section of the board will become very full, so to make it easier for everyone to find answers to their questions, please use good forum etiquette. Use informative titles for your posts, so that people can find relevant information. Read the posts already on the board before posting a question so that you don’t post a duplicate. Finally, be professional in tone and behaviour.

Please use email for personal issues and the discussion board to ask general course-related questions. I always try to respond to email by the end of the next day, but it may take longer on weekends and near due dates. Make sure to ask your questions well in advance whenever possible. Questions on assignments are often better suited for the discussion board and office hours.
These items are required for the course:

- Practical Programming: An Introduction to Computer Science by Campbell, Gries, Montojo and Wilson (Pragmatic Bookshelf, 2009). It is available online in paper and/or electronic form at http://pragprog.com/titles/gwpy/practical-programming

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CodeLab (11)</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Each CodeLab is worth 0.5% (best 10 of 11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labs (10)</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Each lab is worth 0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>Three assignments at 12% each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>To be scheduled (probably week of Oct 17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>You must earn a 40% or above on the exam to pass the course; else, your final course mark will be set no higher than 47.</td>
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There are 11 sets of CodeLab exercises. These are due on Mondays at 9:00 AM. You can earn up to two marks per CodeLab problem set. To earn one mark, you must attempt all the exercises and get at least 75% of them correct. For example, if there are 10 exercises, then you must attempt all 10 exercises and get at least 8/10 correct, and if there are 3 exercises, then you must attempt all 3 exercises and get all 3/3 correct. To earn the second mark, you must get all the exercises correct. You may attempt each exercise more than once.

There are 10 labs. (These are the “tutorials” that you signed up for.) They may be completed with a partner. To earn the 0.5% for a lab, you must arrive on time, work hard, and complete a significant portion of the lab work.

You are permitted, and in fact encouraged, to work with a partner on the first and third assignments. The second assignment must be a solo effort. You may work with a different partner in lab and on the assignments. We expect that partners working together will use a team-programming approach similar to the ones used in labs. Splitting the work and performing the tasks separately will not help prepare you for the tests and final exam.

Assignment handouts will be available on the course website, and I encourage you to read the handout as soon as it is released. The more time you have to think about the problem – and the more frequently you work on it (even for half an hour per day!) – the better you’ll understand the material.

Assignments are due at 10:00 p.m. sharp on the specified day. No late assignments will be accepted. In a serious emergency, send the instructor an email as soon as possible; be prepared to meet during office hours and to present documentation of the emergency.

All of the work you submit must be done by you and your partner only, and your work must not be submitted by someone else. Plagiarism is academic fraud and is taken very seriously. The department uses software that compares programs for evidence of similar code. Please read the Rules and Regulations from the U of T Calendar (especially the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters):

http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm

Please don’t cheat. It is unpleasant for everyone involved, including us. Here are a couple of general guidelines to help you avoid plagiarism:

- Never look at another student’s assignment solution. Never show another student your assignment solution. This applies to all drafts of a solution and to incomplete and even incorrect solutions.
- Keep discussions with other students focused on concepts and examples. Never discuss CodeLab questions or assignments before the due date with anyone but your partner, the CSC108 TAs, or your instructor.