CSC104, Fall 2017
Course Information Sheet

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CSC104, "Computational Thinking" introduces undergrads to Computer Science, with the aim that they should change the world of computing, rather than just observe it. Here's a summary of the administrative details for Fall 2017.

Please visit the course web page http://www.cs.toronto.edu/~jsmith/104/F17/ often, and read email sent to your U of T email for important announcements.

Contact: Each week, other than reading week (November 6th–10th), we'll meet on Mondays and Fridays at the following times and places...

> **Lecture 0101**: 11a.m.–12p.m., WB116 (Wallberg Building).
> Instructor: Danny Heap. Office hours: W11–1 in BA3175
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> **Lecture 0201**: 12–1p.m., WB116 (Wallberg Building).
> Instructor: Jacqueline Smith. Office hours: M1-3 in BA4262
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> **Lecture 0301**: 3–4 p.m., MP202 (McLennan Physical Laboratories).
> Instructor: Gary Baumgartner. Office hours: W1-3 in BA3175

...for discussion, worked examples, and programming demonstration. On Wednesdays from 11:10a.m. to 4p.m. you will have an opportunity to meet with your teaching assistants in BA3175–BA3195, Bahen building closed labs, get some help understanding your weekly course exercises.

You also need to sign up on ROSI for a Wednesday tutorial slot, which determines when (and where) you write your weekly quiz.

The course instructors can be reached by email at csc104f17@cs.toronto.edu

Email, Piazza: Course instructors receive thousands of emails per month, which makes it hard to ensure that each piece is followed up on promptly. You should use email to instructors sparingly.

You may use Piazza (see course web page) for questions and answers that don't reveal the details of assignments. You may use Piazza in "demo" mode if you do not wish them to have your email address. If you have a question that can't be raised on Piazza and is suitable for email, be sure to include "CSC104", and something about your question, in the Subject: line.

Textbook and computing: We will provide slides and links to readings online, and we will use Picturing Programs, in PDF form. We think you should pay $4.99 for *Picturing Programs*. By taking this course, you automatically receive an account on the Computer Science Teaching Labs. Find out how to start using your account.

The first week on Wednesday (yes, September 13th!) in BA3175-BA3185 from 11:10am – 4pm, you'll be able to get help from course TAs in setting up your account and the DrRacket computing environment.

Syllabus: We'll discuss the following topics:

- Problem solving
- Algorithms
- Data representation and manipulation

In parallel with these discussions we will be constantly messing with a programming language called **racket** and its favourite environment **DrRacket**. Your understanding of computers, and the culture associated with them, will be enhanced by a gentle introduction to program design.

Marking scheme: The marking scheme is designed to place a low weight (40%) on the final exam, since we believe this reduces a potential source of stress for students. In order to do this, we have to introduce frequent-but-smaller sources of stress: 9 quizzes during the tutorial time, two term tests (during lecture time), two projects, and a blog. These are timed, and weighted, as follows:

Work	Due	Weight
8 Quizzes	September 20th and 27th October 4th, 18th, 25th November 1st, 22nd December 6th Quizzes are brief, and meant to verify basic concept acquisition.	16% (total)
3 Assignments	Project #1: November 3, 10:00 p.m. Project # 2: December 1st, 10:00 p.m. courSe bLOG (SLOG), Oct 6, Oct 27, Dec 6, 10:00 p.m.	24% (total)
2 Term tests	Term test #1, Friday October 13th, during your lecture time Term test #2, Friday November 17th, during your lecture time	20% (total)
Final exam	Some time during exam period	40%

Nuances: Everybody has better and worse days. We aim to give higher weight to your better work. For example, the weights of the assignments sum to 24%, so your best effort will have weight 10%, next best 8%, and worst 6%. Your best three quizzes will be worth 3% each, your worst three quizzes 1% each, and the other two 2% each. Similarly, the term tests sum to 20%, so your best effort will have weight 13% and your lesser effort will have weight 7%. The 40% weight of the final is, however, not changeable.

Lateness, sickness, natural disasters: There is a 5%/hour late penalty for the projects and SLOG, otherwise we do not accept late work.

However, if you have special circumstances that force you to miss a deadline, contact us immediately at <csc104f17@cs.toronto.edu> (ideally before the work is due), and follow the instructions on the course website under "Request for Special Consideration". We will do our best to ensure there is no penalty for a deadline missed for a valid reason.

Re-marks: It is very important that the mark we submit at the end of the course correctly reflects the quality of your term work. If you believe an error was made in the grading of a piece of term work, you have two weeks from the date the work was returned to submit a re-mark request.

Your work will be re-marked with fresh eyes, and the mark may go up, go down, or stay the same. Any changed mark will be updated by the end of the course, before final marks are submitted.

Independent work: It is a serious academic offense to pass of somebody else's work as your own for credit. Be sure to give full and generous credit to any person or book (except this course's instructor and teaching assistants) you consult in solving assignments. If you take notes when you consult a source, quote that source in full.

If you intend to present work as your own, for credit, then you should avoid looking at similar work by other students, in written or electronic form, since looking can easily turn into plagiarism. Avoid showing your own assignments to other students. Take a couple of hours' break after even face-to-face verbal discussions of the assignment before writing it up.