

# CSC104, Fall 2017

## courSe LOG (SLOG)

You will record and reflect on your participation in this course by creating an online courSe LOG (SLOG). This is the place to record milestones you have achieved in the course, things you find difficult (and what steps you've taken to overcome the difficulty), your reaction to concepts presented in course material, and anything else you decide is relevant to your experience of the course. Keeping records is a skill you'll use in various forms in your life, for example keeping track of the existence and actions taken toward fixing bugs/features. SLOGs even have *their own song*. This semester you'll keep the record *publicly*, meaning that your SLOG will be readable by your peers in this class and the entire web. Thus, you should be careful (see below) about revealing any identifying information about yourself.

Consider three distinct audiences for your SLOG, with three distinct viewpoints (just to make things interesting). First, teaching staff (the instructor or TAs) will be reading your SLOG, making comments where appropriate, and assigning a grade for your SLOG at the end of the term. Second, your peers in this course will read your SLOG, and compare your experience to theirs (and this should prevent you from being too fawning toward the teaching staff). Third, you'll re-read your SLOG at various points, to get an impression of how your experience of the course changes (or doesn't) over the semester.

SLOG Requirements:

- By October 6th you will have begun your SLOG and have posted a few paragraphs (about a page) answering the following questions:
  - Why did you choose CSC104? What do you hope to get out of the course?
  - What did you expect programming to be like, and how does it compare with your experience in the course so far? (If you programmed before, how is programming in this course similar, and how is it different?)
  - What do you find interesting so far?
  - What do you find hard so far? Is the course easier or harder than you expected?
  - How did you study for the quizzes? Are you satisfied with your performance on them; if not, what do you plan to change?
  - Are there any specific Computer Science topics you're interested in?
- By October 27th, you will post a few paragraphs answering the following questions:
  - How are you preparing for the quizzes/tests?
  - Are there any images you've made, or even functions to create images, that you enjoyed or are proud of?
  - Are there things you initially found hard or intimidating, but now understand? How did you get to that point?
  - Would you like to ask questions in tutorial, the CSC104 TA office hours, the general CS Help Centre hours, or on Piazza, but have trouble doing so? What could make that easier for you?

- If you went to the general CS Help Centre hours (Monday to Thursday from 4–6pm) but couldn't get help with the CSC104 material, let us know that. The TAs there have a lot of courses to keep track of, but the CS Department takes CSC104 seriously and is committed to helping the Help Centre TAs help you.
- By December 6th, you will post a few paragraphs answering:
  - What advice would you give to a student beginning this course about (a) how to design a function, and (b) how to prepare for this course?
- During the other weeks, between October 6th and December 6th, you'll make brief, but frequent (weekly), posts on course topics. These should be organized by date, and where suitable, by topic.
- Your entries should record not only your subjective reaction to course events, but steps you take to deal with your reaction. For example, if you are finding some course material difficult, what do you plan to do to make it easier. If you're finding material tedious, what can be done about that?
- Pay attention to sentence structure, spelling, and clarity.
- Respond in a productive, respectful way to reader's questions and comments. Include links to other students' slogs where the material is interesting to you.

In order to get **full credit for your SLOG**, you must **submit your SLOG utorid** before October 6th.

**Create your SLOG** on **tumblr, blogger**, or any other blogging site that allows feedback ("likes" or comments). The link to your blog will be posted for the class. You may want to look at some **instructions on setting up a blog** if you're new to this.

**Don't reveal personal information** in your SLOGs or profile that you aren't comfortable sharing with the world. Don't tolerate, or participate in, discussion or comments that are disrespectful of you or your peers. **Contact your constructor if you are experiencing disrespectful interactions on your SLOG.** Remember, facts such as your name, age, gender, and address can be used for identity theft. In addition, if the server for the SLOG is located in the U.S., you may assume that Homeland Security might scan your opinions on computational thinking!

If you're **suffering from "blogger's block,"** here are some standard questions you might consider:

- what's something new you learned this week in class?
- what's something you enjoyed this week in class?
- what's something that challenged or frustrated you this week?
- how confident do you feel about material covered this week?
- how does course material relate to other classes or interests?
- what was one of your achievements this week
- how did your tutorial/test/assignment go this week?
- ask, and then answer, some question you had about course content.