

CSC343H1S 20229 (All Sections): Introduction to Databases

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Welcome to CSC343H1! This course provides an Introduction to Databases, and prepares you for later study in the implementation of Database Management Systems.

The material posted on Quercus is required reading. It contains important information, including assignment handouts, the policy on missed work, links to the online discussion forum (Piazza), and announcements. You are responsible for all announcements made in lecture and on Quercus.

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Contact Information

Instructors	Diane Horton and Marina Tawfik
Lectures	<p>L0101/L0102/L2001 (Diane): Tuesdays 2-3pm in MY 150 Thursdays 1-3pm in MY150 zoom chat channel: https://tinyurl.com/343chatL0101 (https://tinyurl.com/343chatL0101)</p> <p>L0201/L2101 (Marina): Tuesdays 3-4pm in OISE 2212 Thursdays 3-5pm in RW110 zoom chat channel: https://tinyurl.com/343chatL0201 (https://tinyurl.com/343chatL0201)</p> <p>We will be using the chat functionality of zoom to answer questions during lectures. The chat will be active during lecture times only and will be primarily monitored by the TAs. To join the chat meeting, log in to zoom using your UofT account and follow the link for your section.</p>
Office Hours	<p>Beginning Monday, September 12th</p> <p>Diane (BA 4236)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Monday 11:00 am to 01:00 pmThursday 10:00 am to 11:00 am <p>Marina (BA 2283)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Tuesday 04:30 pm to 06:00 pm

	The schedule may change. Please see the calendar for the most up to date information.
Email (for personal issues)	csc343-2022-09@cs.toronto.edu (mailto:csc343-2022-09@cs.toronto.edu)
Discussion Board (for issues relevant to other students)	Piazza (https://piazza.com/class/kqggsf0jgn2i5ud)
MarkUs link	To be provided once your accounts are loaded
PCRS link	https://pcrs.teach.cs.toronto.edu/csc343-2022-09 (https://pcrs.teach.cs.toronto.edu/csc343-2022-09)

Prerequisites

If you don't have the course prerequisites listed in the [calendar entry \(https://fas.calendar.utoronto.ca/course/csc343h1\)](https://fas.calendar.utoronto.ca/course/csc343h1), the undergraduate office will contact you with a form to complete in order to request a prerequisite waiver. Waivers are not granted automatically; a decision is made based on whether or not we feel you are well prepared to succeed in the course.

Teaching style

CSC343 is "semi-inverted". You will learn some of the basic material on your own, outside of class time; We will teach the more challenging material and demonstrate problem-solving in class. There will also regularly be activities that you participate in during class. Be prepared to get your gears turning! There is strong evidence, and our experience also shows, that active learning works better than passively listening to a lecture. We also think it's a lot more fun!

To prepare for these active classes, you will do weekly "prep" activities outside of class. These will involve learning some material on your own, through readings or videos, and practising things we've learned in class. They will always culminate in some small exercises that you hand in. These weekly activities are not intended to be greatly difficult or time consuming, but they will be pivotal in your learning.

Lecture recordings

At least one of us will record our live lectures and make them available on Quercus later in the week. However, reading/viewing the recorded materials will provide a poorer experience than participating actively in class. We hope you will choose to attend live and participate, and if you have to miss a lecture, we encourage you to pause the video and do the exercises where noted.

Course videos and materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other source, and are protected by copyright. In this course, you are permitted to download videos and materials for your own academic use, but you should not copy, share, or use them for any other purpose without the explicit permission of the instructor. For example, you are not permitted to post any course materials (worksheets, assignments, starter code, etc.) online.

Marking Scheme

Lecture Preps	10%	10 Weekly lecture preparation activities (for weeks 2 to 11), each worth 1%	Due Tuesdays before 1pm
Research surveys	1%	Two short surveys. The initial survey will be included in a Lecture Prep. The final survey is due on the last day of classes, Wednesday December 7th, at 11:59pm.	Worth 0.5% each
Assignment 1	10%	Relational Algebra	Wednesday, October 5th before 4pm

Midterm	15%	In person; two hours, during lecture time	Thursday, October 27th (in your section)
Assignment 2	10%	SQL and JDBC	Wednesday, November 2nd before 4pm
Assignment 3	10%	Database Design	Wednesday, November 30th before 4pm
Final exam	44%	In person ; three hours. You must get 40% or above on the final exam to pass the course; otherwise, your final course grade will be no higher than 47%.	TBA, during the final assessment period.

Getting Help

Discussion Board: for sharable questions

Please post your questions about the course material and assignments on our Piazza discussion board so that everyone can benefit from your questions. Feel free to answer other students' questions! Helping someone else learn is one of the most effective ways of deeply learning a subject.

We will monitor the discussion board regularly and answer as many questions as we can. It may take longer near due dates, so try to start assignments early in case you have questions.

Course email account: for personal matters

Please use the course email account, csc343-2022-09@cs.toronto.edu, [_\(mailto:csc343-2022-09@cs.toronto.edu,\)_](mailto:csc343-2022-09@cs.toronto.edu) for personal matters such as missing course work due to illness.

Instructor office hours: for everything

We welcome all kinds of conversations at office hours. For example, if you are stuck on a problem and unable to make progress, or confused about a concept in the course, or having difficulty working effectively with your partner, please come to see us. We'd love to help!

Creating a Positive Learning Environment

We are committed to creating a respectful learning environment in computer science courses for all students and expect that you will adhere to the University of Toronto [Code of Student Conduct](http://www.viceprovoststudents.utoronto.ca/publicationsandpolicies/codeofstudentconduct.htm) (<http://www.viceprovoststudents.utoronto.ca/publicationsandpolicies/codeofstudentconduct.htm>). Please be mindful of how your behaviour influences the atmosphere in our learning community, not just in classes, but also in office hours, on our discussion board, and anywhere that you interact with other students and members of the department.

The University of Toronto is committed to equity, human rights and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another's differences. U of T does not condone discrimination or harassment against any persons or communities.

Resources

These two resources are suggested to support your learning in the course:

- The textbook "A First Course in Database Systems" by Jeffrey D. Ullman and Jennifer Widom, 2008 (3rd Edition), available online from the [publisher \(http://www.mypersonstore.com/bookstore/product.asp?isbn=013600637X&xid=PSED\)](http://www.mypersonstore.com/bookstore/product.asp?isbn=013600637X&xid=PSED), [Chapters Indigo \(http://www.chapters.indigo.ca/home/search/?keywords=A%20First%20Course%20in%20Database%20Systems&pageSize=12\)](http://www.chapters.indigo.ca/home/search/?keywords=A%20First%20Course%20in%20Database%20Systems&pageSize=12), or [Amazon \(http://www.amazon.ca/s/ref=nb_sb_ss_i_0_34?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=a+first+course+in+database+systems\)](http://www.amazon.ca/s/ref=nb_sb_ss_i_0_34?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=a+first+course+in+database+systems&x=0&y=0&prefix=a+first+course+in+database+systems). It is also available on two-hour loan at the Engineering Library in the Sandford Fleming Building. It may or may not be available at the UofT Bookstore at this time.

- Jennifer Widom at Stanford University has several free mini-courses [available on edX \(https://www.edx.org/school/stanfordonline\)](https://www.edx.org/school/stanfordonline), but in a somewhat synchronous mode that starts September 2nd.
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Working with a Partner

Preps: All weekly preps must be done individually.

Assignments: For the assignments, you have the option of partnering with one other CSC343 student, and we encourage you to do so. You may choose your own partner, and it need not be the same person for each assignment. Your partner may come from any section of the course. Both partners will receive the same mark for joint assignments. Once you begin working on an assignment, you may not dissolve your partnership without my permission.

If you choose to work with a partner for an assignment, you must declare your group on MarkUs. You should declare it as soon as your group is formed, and certainly well before the deadline. Groups cannot be declared once we are into the late period for an assignment. Please note that even if you are working alone on an assignment, you must still declare your "group" on MarkUs. Email the course account ([csc343-2022-09@cs.toronto.edu \(mailto:csc343-2022-09@cs.toronto.edu\)](mailto:csc343-2022-09@cs.toronto.edu)) for help if you're having trouble forming a group.

Choose well: Before partnering, have a conversation about expectations and work habits. What mark are you aiming for on this assignment? Do you like to start early or are you a procrastinator? Do you typically work late at night or during business hours? Sharing your answers and working out any differences is probably more important than comparing your technical backgrounds.

Working together: Working with a partner has the potential to lighten your workload and enhance your learning or to increase your workload and impair your learning, depending on how you work together. Remember that you are responsible for learning the course material underlying all parts of the assignments. Just dividing up the work can result in a less successful assignment, as you won't benefit from your partner's insights, and could lead to disaster on the tests, as you won't have become proficient in all aspects of the course. You will have the most success if you truly work together.

If a partner doesn't meet a commitment: Don't avoid talking with your partner in these situations. It doesn't have to be a conflict; you can start by asking what's happening with them, and work together on a resolution. If you need help, please come talk to us. If your partner misses several commitments, be *sure* to talk with us.

Policies

Assignment Due Times

Assignments are due on Wednesdays **before 4:00 pm** sharp. They must be submitted electronically, using the MarkUs online system. Log in with your CS Teaching Labs username and password. Be sure to confirm that you have submitted all the required files and the correct version of each; we cannot accept missing files or a different version of an already-submitted file after the due date. Code that you submit to us for grading must work on the CS Teaching Labs machines as we will be testing your code in this environment.

Late Assignments

MarkUs is known to be slow when many students try to submit right before a deadline. Aim to submit your work at least one hour before the deadline. You can submit your work more than once—only the last version submitted before the deadline will be graded.

The late penalty for assignments is as follows: 0% deduction for the first hour, then 5% deduction per hour for the next 5 hours, then 15% deduction for the next 5 hours. After 11 hours, no lates are accepted.

Late Preps

For weekly preps, **no late submissions will be graded.**

Missed Midterm

We are not able to offer a makeup midterm. For students who miss the midterm for a legitimate reason, the midterm weight will be added to the final exam. See the next section for how to request this.

Special Consideration

Students experiencing illness or other emergencies that prevent them from being able to complete homework on time, or write a term test, can request special consideration. You will be required to affirm that you are abiding by the [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#)

(<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/ppjun011995.pdf>), in particular that it is an offence

to engage in any form of cheating, academic dishonesty or misconduct, fraud or misrepresentation not herein otherwise described, in order to obtain academic credit or other academic advantage of any kind.

That is, you must confirm that you are truly experiencing an emergency, and acknowledge that to falsely claim so is an academic offence.

Applying does not guarantee that you will be granted special consideration.

To apply for special consideration in CSC343, complete the [Special Consideration Request Form](#) and email it to the course account (csc343-2022-09@cs.toronto.edu (<mailto:csc343-2022-09@cs.toronto.edu>)) from your UofT email address. If your request is due to illness, fill out the absence declaration form on ACORN and include it with your email. We will do our best to reply within 1-2 business days. If your special consideration has to do with requesting an extension on an assignment, please be sure to declare your group on MarkUs - even if working alone - before sending your email request.

IMPORTANT: Submit your request as soon as possible. It is easier to resolve situations earlier rather than later. If your emergency will affect your ability to complete coursework for more than a few days, or in multiple courses, we recommend you also talk to your Registrar - they are very helpful in such situations.

Remark Requests

Mistakes sometimes happen when marking. If you feel there is an issue with the marking of your assignment or test, you may request that it be remarked. Remark requests are accepted for two weeks after the item is returned, and are submitted via MarkUs. You must give a specific reason for a remark request, referring to a possible error or omission by the marker. Remark requests without a specific reason will not be accepted.

We will respond to remark requests before the final grades are submitted at the end of the term. We aim to do these sooner, but it is not always possible.

Academic Integrity

The work you submit must be your own. It is an academic offence to copy someone else's work. This includes their code, their words, and even their ideas. Whether you copy or let someone else copy, it is an offence. Academic offences are taken very seriously, and penalties can go well beyond 0 on the piece of work.

At the same time, we want you to benefit from working with other students. Obviously, work done with your partner is a joint effort. You are also welcome to work appropriately with students other than your partner. It is appropriate to discuss course material and technology related to assignments, and we encourage you to do so. For example, you may work through examples that help you understand course material or a new technology, or help each other configure your system to run a supporting piece of software. You may also discuss assignment **requirements**.

However, other than between partners, *collaboration on assignment solutions is strictly forbidden*. The most certain way to protect yourself is not to discuss assignment solutions or the ideas behind them with students other than your partner. Certainly you must not let others see your assignment solutions, even in draft form, and even your rough work.

Be cautious with online tutors, as some cross the line and tell students the answers -- and they routinely engage with multiple students who all end up submitting nearly identical work.

Please don't cheat. We want you to succeed and are here to help if you are having difficulty.

Accessibility Accommodations

The University provides academic accommodations for students with disabilities in accordance with the terms of the Ontario Human Rights Code. This occurs through a collaborative process that acknowledges a collective obligation to develop an accessible learning environment that both meets the needs of students and preserves the essential academic requirements of the University's courses and programs.

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have a disability that may require accommodations, please feel free to [contact us \(mailto:csc343-2022-09@cs.toronto.edu\)](mailto:csc343-2022-09@cs.toronto.edu) and/or the St George Campus [Accessibility Services \(https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/departments/accessibility-services/\)](https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/departments/accessibility-services/) office.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Tue Sep 13, 2022	 Prep 2 (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/278904/assignments/913336)	due by 1pm
Tue Sep 20, 2022	 Prep 3 (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/278904/assignments/913337)	due by 1pm
Tue Sep 27, 2022	 Prep 4 (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/278904/assignments/913338)	due by 1pm
Tue Oct 4, 2022	 Prep 5 (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/278904/assignments/913339)	due by 1pm
Wed Oct 5, 2022	 Assignment 1 (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/278904/assignments/913318)	due by 4pm
Tue Oct 11, 2022	 Prep 6 (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/278904/assignments/913340)	due by 1pm
Tue Oct 18, 2022	 Prep 7 (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/278904/assignments/913341)	due by 1pm
Tue Oct 25, 2022	 Prep 8 (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/278904/assignments/913342)	due by 1pm
Tue Nov 1, 2022	 Prep 9 (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/278904/assignments/913343)	due by 1pm

Date	Details	Due
Wed Nov 2, 2022	 Assignment 2 (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/278904/assignments/913320)	due by 4pm
Tue Nov 15, 2022	 Prep 10 (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/278904/assignments/913344)	due by 1pm
Tue Nov 22, 2022	 Prep 11 (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/278904/assignments/913345)	due by 1pm
Wed Nov 30, 2022	 Assignment 3 (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/278904/assignments/913321)	due by 4pm
Wed Dec 7, 2022	 Final Survey (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/278904/assignments/913335)	due by 11:59pm
	 Final Exam (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/278904/assignments/913324)	
	 Initial Survey (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/278904/assignments/913325)	
	 Midterm Test (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/278904/assignments/913322)	