CSC148H1S 20231 (All Sections): Introduction to Computer Science

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Welcome to CSC148! This course, *Introduction to Computer Science,* introduces you to how computer scientists think in a systematic way about computing. Our goal is to provide you with skills for approaching program design in a principled way, using techniques such as encapsulation, modularity, information-hiding, comparing different implementations for efficiency, and building powerful data structures.

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

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Contact Information

Diane Horton is the Course Coordinator, which means that she and the Instructional Support staff deal with all administrative issues such as missed work, problems with your grades, the course website, and TA issues. Sophia Huynh is Lab Coordinator (in addition to being an instructor), which means she deals with all issues related to the weekly preps and labs.

Instructor	Diane Horton (Course Coordinator)	Jonathan Calver	Jacqueline Smith	Sophia Huynh	Misha Schwartz
Lectures *In-person except where noted*	*L0401/L0402* W3-5 F4-5	*L0101* T1-3 R1-2 *L0301* W1-3 F1-2	*L0102* T1-3 R1-2 ***online*** **Zoom link (https://utoronto.zoom.us /j/82695842616)** password: 2023148	*L0201* T3-5 R3-4	*L0501* T6-9
Office Hours *In-person except where noted* (See calendar for locations/link and for any updates.)	W10:30-noon and F12:30-2 (Group Office Hours)	M4-5:30 and R4-5:30	M2-3:30 ***online***	F2-4	R11:30-1
Office Hour Calendar	**Office Hours**				
Course email account	**csc148-2023-01@cs.toronto.edu (mailto:csc148-2023-01@cs.toronto.edu)**				

	Please send email from your UofT address. Include your full name and UTORid in the body of the email.
Discussion Board	**Piazza (https://piazza.com/class/lci0mq5wy287iw)**
MarkUs link	**MarkUs (https://markus148.teach.cs.toronto.edu/2023-01/courses/1)**

Please do not use Quercus messaging for anything related to CSC148.

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. If you do not hear back quickly, we are always available during office hours to help.

Group Office Hours: for sharable questions

Group Office Hours will be held in person, in a meeting or tutorial room, and will be run by Diane. We will go over concepts, examples, etc. based on your requests. You are welcome to bring whatever is bugging you, or just to come and listen.

Instructor and TA office hours: for everything

There will be many hours each week of instructor and TA office hours, and more in the week prior to each assignment. These will be a mix of online and in-person. See the **Office Hours calendar** for the schedule.

Course email account: for personal matters

Please use the course email account, **csc148-2023-01@cs.toronto.edu (mailto:csc148-2023-01@cs.toronto.edu)** for personal matters such as missing course work due to illness.

Lectures

Active Learning

During lectures, we will present material and demonstrate problem solving for part of the time. There will also regularly be activities that you participate in. Be prepared to get your gears turning in class! There is very 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!

Lecture Recordings

Lectures in the online section will be recorded. Students in any section who are unable to attend class on a given day can view the corresponding recording. Viewing the recorded materials will provide a poorer experience than participating actively in class, so we hope that everyone who can attend and participate will choose to do that.

Course videos and materials belong to the instructor, the University, and/or other source depending on the specific facts of each situation, and are protected by copyright. In this course, you are permitted to download videos and course 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 the online section, video recordings of class will not include the images of students, even if their camera is on. The chat will not be recorded, nor will anything from the breakout sessions.

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) . Please be mindful of how your behavior influences the atmosphere in our learning community, not just in classes, but also in office hours, in online forums, and anywhere that you interact with other students and members of the department.

Prerequisites

CSC108 or equivalent programming experience is assumed. We'll be using Python in the course, but comfort with other imperative programming languages like Java or C should be fine. There will be a **rampup session** during the first weekend of term for students whose background is not in Python or who feel they need a refrheser. Find out more **here**.

Here are some links to CSC108 materials and general advice:

- **Coursera course 1 (https://www.coursera.org/course/programming1)** and **Coursera course 2 (https://www.coursera.org/course/programming2)**

- **CSC108 Fall 2022 website (https://www.teach.cs.toronto.edu/~csc108h/fall/)**

- **Information about the CSC108 textbook (https://pragprog.com/titles/gwpy3/practical-programming-third-edition/)**

- **CSC108 Youtube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu8NnRGTGxHe96Le0xqLrNQ/videos)**

- **Advice on choosing your first-year courses (https://web.cs.toronto.edu/undergraduate/first-year-courses)** (skip down to "Which introductory course is right for you?")

Textbook

There is no course textbook. We'll be using online **lecture notes (https://www.teach.cs.toronto.edu/~csc148h/winter/notes/)** throughout the term; this is your required reading for this course. We will occasionally post links to other readings. All readings will be available for free.

Course Software

For information about the software we'll use for this course, please see the **Software Guide** page.

Marking Scheme

10 "prep" exercises	10%	Worth 1% each, due Tuesdays at 11AM.
9 labs (called "TUT" on Acorn)	9%	1% each. **In person**, even for students in the online section.
Initial research survey	0.5%	Included in a weekly Prep near the middle of term.
Assignment 0	5%	Tuesday, Feb 7th at 1pm.
Midterm	15%	During class time on Tue Feb 14th and Wed Feb 15th. **In person**, even for students in the online section.
Assignment 1	13%	Due Tue Mar 7th at 1pm.
Assignment 2	13%	Due Tue Apr 4th at 1pm.
Final research survey	0.5%	Due Thu Apr 6th at midnight.

Final Exam	34% You must earn 40% or above on the final exam to pass the course; otherwise, your final course grade will be no higher than 47%.	During the final assessment period. **In person**, even for students in the online section.

Missed Midterms

We are not able to offer a makeup midterm. For a student who misses the midterm for a legitimate reason and is granted special consideration:

- If the issue is resolved in time to write a later sitting of the midterm, we may be able to offer this later sitting

- Otherwise, the midterm weight will be added to the final exam.

Assignment Policies

Assignments must be submitted electronically, using the MarkUs online system. 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.

Working with a Partner

All weekly preps must be done individually, as must Assignment 0. For Assignment 1 and Assignment 2, you have the option of partnering with one other CSC148 student, and we encourage you to do so. You may choose your own partner, from any section of the course on the St. George campus, and it need not be the same person for each assignment. Once you begin working on an assignment, you may not dissolve your partnership without our permission. Both partners will receive the same mark for joint assignments.

If you choose to work with a partner for an assignment, you must form a group on MarkUs. You should declare a partnership well before the deadline (there is no downside of doing

so). Email the course account for help if you're having trouble forming a group.

Working with a partner has the potential to lighten your workload and to increase your learning, or to make things worse. It all depends on how well you work together. Remember that you are responsible for learning the course material underlying all parts of the assignments. You will have the most success if you truly work together.

If you are Having Difficulty with your Partner

If you and your partner are not working well together, please contact us through the course account without delay. We can do little to help if you contact us close to the assignment due date. Students are sometimes reluctant to ask for help, feeling that it is a kind of betrayal. However, experience has shown us that things rarely go well when students avoid the problem. We are here to help.

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.

Note that your partnership cannot be declared during the late-with-penalty period. Declare your partnership well before the assignment deadline.

Late Preps

Weekly Preps generally include two graded components: a Quercus quiz and programming exercises submitted on MarkUs.

- For the Quercus quiz component of the weekly preps, **late submissions are not accepted.**
- For the MarkUs component of the weekly preps, there is a 0% deduction for the first hour. After that, **late submissions will not be graded.**

Technical Issues

- No extensions or special consideration will be granted to individual students on assignments and exercises for reasons of technical difficulties.
- To ensure that you are not affected by a technical difficulty on your end, we strongly recommend that you: (1) give yourself extra time in advance of the deadlines in case you have trouble submitting, and (2) regularly backup your assignment files, such as by submitting them to MarkUs (yes, you can submit incomplete assignments as you work on them and update later!), by emailing the assignment file to yourself, or by using some other method of backup. Make sure whatever you choose is not public. Using a public backup method, like a public Github repository, is equivalent to sharing your code with other students.
- In the unlikely event of a MarkUs outage affecting your ability to submit your exercises or assignments, we will post an announcement with instructions on how to proceed.

Lab Policies

For CSC148, labs are a scheduled time for you to get hands-on experience applying the concepts you learn each week with support from a TA. There will also be an informal quiz activity at the end of lab.

All labs are in person. Please consult the **Weekly Labs** page to find your assigned lab room. To keep the student-to-TA ratio consistent, you must attend the lab room you've been assigned.

Your lab mark is an attendance mark, granted if you fulfill the following criteria:

1. Come to the lab within **10 minutes** of it starting (20 minutes past the hour)*
2. Put in a good effort each lab (not just goofing off)
3. Stay for the end-of-lab quiz: At the end of the lab, you will be given time to complete a quiz on paper. There will also be a post-quiz discussion, which you can (and should) use to revise your answers.

Attendance grades will appear on MarkUs by the Monday after the lab has completed. Please wait a few days before asking about a missing attendance grade.

*This flexibility is intended for you to not have to worry about occasionally arriving later

than 10 past. However regular lateness may affect your lab mark.

Special Consideration

Students experiencing illness or other emergencies that prevent them from being able to complete homework on time, or write a test, can apply to the Course Coordinator for 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, to be aware 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 be 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 CSC148, complete the **Special Consideration Request Form** and email it to the course account (**csc148-2023-01@cs.toronto.edu (mailto:csc148-2023-01@cs.toronto.edu)**) *from your UofT email address*. You will receive an email response to your request within 1-2 business days.

IMPORTANT: Submit your request soon as possible if you find yourself in such a situation. It is easier to resolve situations earlier rather than later. **Requests received after the due date are unlikely to be considered unless the emergency prevented you from submitting the request before the due date.** 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. You should also complete the absence declaration form on ACORN.

Midterm Remark Requests

Mistakes sometimes happen when marking. If you feel there is an issue with the marking

of your test, you may request that it be remarked.

Remark requests are accepted for two weeks after a test is returned, and will be completed before the final grades are submitted at the end of the term.

You must give a specific reason for your request, referring to a possible error or omission by the marker. Remark requests without a specific reason will not be accepted.

We will make a Quercus announcement after the test results are released with details on how to request a remark.

Academic Integrity

All of the work you submit must be done by you, 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 Governing Council (especially the **Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies /behaveac.htm)**).

Please also see the information for students from the **Office of Student Academic Integrity (https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity)** .

Please don't copy. We want you to succeed and are here to help. Here are a couple of general guidelines to help you avoid plagiarism:

- Never look at any part of another student's assignment solution and never show another student any part of your assignment solution. Sharing is forbidden whether on paper, by emailing files, by pasting into a group chat, or any other means. This applies to all drafts of a solution and to incomplete or incorrect solutions.

- If you find code on the web that solves part or all of an assignment, do not read, use, or submit any part of it! A large percentage of the academic offences in CS involve students who have never met, and who just happened to find the same solution online. If you find a solution, someone else will too.

- For tests and assignments, do not seek solutions online, or help outside of the CSC148 course staff. For example, do not post or look at postings on sites like Chegg. These

sites contribute to a large number of our academic offence cases each term.

- Online tutors are also often problematic, as they often cross the line and tell students what code to write - and then work with multiple students who all end up submitting nearly identical code.

- The easiest way to avoid plagiarism is to only discuss a piece of work with the CSC148H TAs or the CSC148H instructors.

Accessibility Needs

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit **http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as/new-registration (http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as/new-registration)** as soon as possible.

Students who require accommodations for online tests need to register with Test & Exam Services. We will only be providing test accommodations sent to us that way.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due