# Course Syllabus

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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

Jonathan Calver is the Course Coordinator, which means that he and the Instructional Support staff

deal with all administrative issues. Sophia Huynh is the Lab Coordinator, which means she deals with all issues related to the weekly preps and labs.

| Instructor | Jonathan Calver (Course Coordinator) | Diane Horton | Sophia Huynh (Lab Coordinator) | Joonho Kim |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Lectures** *In-person* | *L0401/L0402* W3-5 F4-5 | *L0101* T1-3 R1-2 *L0301* W1-3 F1-2 | *L0201* T3-5 R3-4 | *L0501* T6-9 |
| **Office Hour Calendar** | **Office Hours (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/336881/pages/office-hours)** | | | |
| **Course email account** | **csc148-2024-01@cs.toronto.edu (mailto:csc148-2024-01@cs.toronto.edu)** Please send email from your UofT address. **Include your full name and UTORid in the body of the email.** **Please do not use Quercus messaging for anything related to CSC148.** | | | |
| **Discussion Board** | **Piazza ⤷ (https://piazza.com/utoronto.ca/winter2024/csc148h1)** | | | |
| **MarkUs link** | **[to be added once MarkUs is set up]** | | | |

# 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 and answers. Helping someone else learn is one of the most effective ways of deeply learning a subject.

We will monitor the discussion board regularly, but it may take longer to get answers near due dates, so try to start assignments early in case you have questions. Answers to frequently asked questions

will be posted on Piazza throughout the term.

## Group Office Hours: for sharable questions

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

## 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 due date. These will be a mix of online and in-person. See the **Office Hours calendar (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/336881/pages/office-hours)** for the most up-to-date schedule throughout the term.

## Course email account: for personal matters

Please use the course email account, **csc148-2024-01@cs.toronto.edu (mailto:csc148-2024-01@cs.toronto.edu)** for personal matters such as missing course work due to illness. Course content questions should be directed to piazza or office hours.

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# 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 is more effective than passively listening to a lecture — and it tends to be a lot more fun!

## Recordings

Lectures for sections L0101, L0301, and L0401/0402 will be recorded. Students in any section who are unable to attend class on a given day can view the corresponding recording through the OCCS Student App. 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. If you are unable to attend a lecture, we encourage you to consider attending another section or finding a group of students to work through the active learning activities with outside of lecture time.

## Copyright

## Copyright

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 instructors.

# Labs

After lectures each week, you will participate in a two-hour lab, where you will reinforce and extend your learning from lecture that week. The first labs are the week of January 15th; there are no labs the first week of the course. Like lectures, all tutorials start at 10 minutes past the hour. **You must register for a lab section (TUT____) on ACORN, separate from your lecture section.** You are allowed to pick any lab time independent of your lecture time.

We have designed the labs to not simply be a repeat of work you did in lecture, but to give you different kinds of opportunities to problem-solve and practice what you've learned. See **Policies and Guidelines: Weekly Labs** **(https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/336881/pages/policies-and-guidelines-weekly-labs)** for more information about the labs.

# 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 lectures and labs, 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 refresher. Details will be posted on Quercus closer to the date.

Here are some links to CSC108 materials and general advice:

- **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?")

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

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

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

# Textbook

We'll be using online **lecture notes** ⬚ **(https://www.teach.cs.toronto.edu/~csc148h/notes/)** throughout the term; this is your required reading for this course. Keeping up with these readings will put you in great shape to succeed in this course!

# Course Software

For information about the software we'll use for this course, please see the **Software Guide (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/336881/pages/software-guide)** .

# Assessments and Grading Scheme

You will complete four major kinds of assessments in this course: weekly preparation exercises, labs, assignments, and tests/exams. You will also complete a module on *Embedded Ethics in computing*.

| Assessment | Weight | Notes |
|---|---|---|
| 9 "prep" exercises | 8% | 1% each; best 8 of 9; due Tuesdays at 11AM<br><br>Prep 1 is not for credit, but try to complete it before your first lecture. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| setup and debugging activity ("lab 1") | 1% | due Tuesday January 16 at 11AM |
| 8 labs (called "TUT" on Acorn) | 7% | 1% each; best 7 of 8 |
| Assignment 0 | 5% | due Monday February 5 at 6PM |
| Midterm | 15% | During class time on Tuesday February 13 and Wednesday February 14. |
| Assignment 1 | 10% | due Monday March 4 at 6PM |
| Assignment 2 | 10% | due Monday March 25 at 6PM |
| Embedded Ethics Module | 2% total:<br>• 2 surveys: 0.5% each<br>• Written exercise: 1% | • Pre-module survey due before the module during the week of March 25; exact date will be announced<br>• Written exercise due Friday April 5 before 5:00pm<br>• Post-module survey due Friday April 5 before 5:00pm |
| Final Exam | 42% | During the final assessment period.<br><br>**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%.** |

# Missed Midterms

We are not able to offer a makeup midterm. For a student who misses the midterm, you can submit the special consideration form to request that the weight be shifted to the final exam.

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# 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. Make sure to run any provided self-tests on MarkUs to confirm we are able to run your code.

Please see **Policies and Guidelines: Assignments (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/336881/pages/policies-and-guidelines-assignments)** for additional details.

## Working with a Partner

All weekly preps and Assignment 0 must be done individually. For Assignment 1 and Assignment 2, you have the option of partnering with one other CSC148 student. For each of these assignments, you may choose your own partner, from any section of the course on the St. George campus. Both partners will receive the same mark for the assignment. Additional details will be provided in the assignment handouts.

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 collaboratively.

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# Special Consideration

Students experiencing illness or other emergencies that prevent them from being able to complete homework on time, or write a 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/ppjun0119** , in particular, to be aware that it is an academic 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. Making a request does not guarantee that you will be granted special consideration.

> **Special Consideration Request Form** ⬀ **(https://forms.office.com/r/kyQPtWGXvN)**
> (*read the policy details carefully before submitting a request!*)

# 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 the midterm 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 may regrade your entire submission when processing your request. A remark request may result in your midterm grade going up or down.

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. Completing your assigned work is the best way to ensure you are ready to perform well on the final exam. Please see **Academic Integrity in CSC148 (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/336881/pages/academic-integrity-in-csc148)** for additional advice.

# Policy on generative AI (including ChatGPT)

In this course, you may use generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including ChatGPT and GitHub Copilot, as learning aids and to help complete weekly preps and assignments. You will not be permitted to use generative AI on the midterm test or final exam. While some generative AI tools are currently available for free in Canada, please be warned that these tools have not been vetted by the University of Toronto and might not meet University guidelines or requirements for privacy, intellectual property, security, accessibility, and records retention. Generative AI may produce content which is incorrect or misleading, or inconsistent with the expectations of this course. These tools may be subject to service interruptions, software modifications, and pricing changes during the semester.

**Generative AI is not required to complete any aspect of this course**, and we caution you to not rely on these tools to complete your coursework. Instead, we recommend treating generative AI as a supplementary tool only for exploration or drafting content. Ultimately, you (and not any AI tool) are responsible for your own learning in this course, and for all the work you submit for credit. It is your responsibility to critically evaluate the content generated, and to regularly assess your own learning independent of generative AI tools. Overreliance on generative AI may give you a false sense of how much you've actually learned, which can lead to poor performance on the midterm test or final exam, in later courses, or in future work or studies after graduation.

# Your course work

Work that you complete for CSC148 (including exercises, assignments, and tests) may not be shared with other students or published. This policy is to both protect the intellectual property of course staff (including, for example, the design and starter files for assignments), and to protect you from committing acts of academic dishonesty. For more information on this topic, see **the Department of Computer Science website (https://web.cs.toronto.edu/undergraduate/portfolio-advice)** .

**GitHub (https://www.github.com)** is a popular option for computer science students and professionals to both collaborate in teams and publish their work online, including to develop a portfolio for potential employers. As we said in the *Academic Integrity* section, you should not put your work publicly on GitHub. However, you may use GitHub's **private repositories** to store your own work, and work with a group on course assignments. (See **GitHub's instructions for creating a repository (https://docs.github.com/en/github/getting-started-with-github/create-a-repo)** and select "Private" in Step 4.)

# 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 need to register with Test & Exam Services.