

Course Syllabus

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Welcome to CSC108! This course provides an Introduction to Computer Programming. By the end of this course, you should be comfortable programming in Python, understand why good style is critical, and be familiar with core computer science topics like algorithms and complexity.

The material posted on Quercus is required reading. It contains important information: links to 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.**

Communication

To contact the course instructors regarding personal issues and emergencies please use this email address: csc108-2025-01@cs.toronto.edu (<mailto:csc108-2025-01@cs.toronto.edu>)

Sign your email with your full name, student number, and UTORid. Do not use your instructor's personal email for anything related to CSC108.

For general course-related questions such as clarifying a concept, asking about an assignment, etc., please use Piazza or visit us during office hours.

Do not use Quercus messaging for anything related to CSC108.

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Course Materials

To succeed in this course, you will need access to a computer that runs Python3 and Wing101. You can use your own device; any laptop or tablet where you can install your own software and manage your own files will do. (Note that iPads and Chromebooks do not allow this.) [See this page for instructions on installing Python3 and Wing101 on your own computer.](#)

<https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/379470/pages/installing-the-required-software>

You can also do your coursework on the [Teaching Labs in Bahen](#)

<https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/352998/pages/teaching-lab-accounts-and-computer-labs>.

During class time, we will work on exercises together. These exercises are "on paper"; you can bring a printed copy or choose to annotate the provided PDFs on a tablet or laptop.

The textbook, *Practical Programming (3rd ed): An Introduction to Computer Science Using Python 3*, is available as an eBook at: <https://pragprog.com/titles/gwpy3/practical-programming-third-edition/>

 <https://pragprog.com/titles/gwpy3/practical-programming-third-edition/>. The textbook is **optional**.

Instructors

Jennifer Campbell is the Course Coordinator, which means that she and her instructional support staff deal with all administrative issues (e.g. missed work, problems with your grades, the course website, and TA issues).

Instructor information

Instructor	Sections	Locations
Jen Campbell (Course Coordinator)	LEC 0202/0203: M1-3, W 1-2	LEC 0202/0203: MY 150
Blaine Lewis	LEC 0101: M9-11, W10-11	LEC 0101: M (MP 103), W (SF 1105)
Tom Fairgrieve	LEC 0201: M1-3, W 1-2	LEC 0201: MP 103

	LEC 0301: Tu1-3, Th1-2	LEC 0301: MP 202
Amanjit Kainth	LEC 0401: Tu3-5, Th3-4	LEC 0401: AH 400
Majeed Kazemitabaar	LEC 5101: M 6-8, W 6-7	LEC 5101: online
Email : csc108-2025-01@cs.toronto.edu (mailto:csc108-2025-01@cs.toronto.edu)		

Marking Scheme Summary

The page [Navigating the Course \(https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/379470/pages/navigating-the-course\)](https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/379470/pages/navigating-the-course) can help you understand the various tools we will use in the course and this advice on [Managing Expectations \(https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/379470/pages/managing-expectations\)](https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/379470/pages/managing-expectations) will help you understand what you need to do to be successful in CSC108.

The following items will contribute to your grade: weekly exercises (prepare, perform), assignments, two term tests, a research survey, and a final examination. All assessments must be completed alone (no partners or groups). The Marking Scheme is shown in the table below:

Marking scheme

Assessment/ Survey	Total Weight	More information
Prepare Exercises	5%	Due Mondays starting on January 13. Each week is equally weighted. Best 10 of 11.*
Perform Exercises	10%	Due Fridays starting on January 17. Each week is equally weighted. For each week, the PCRS and MarkUs components are equally weighted. Best 10 of 11.*
Assignments	20%	Three assignments: A1 (4%), A2 (8%), A3 (8%)
Term Test 1	10%	Written in person during your registered lecture time the week of February 10-14
Term Test 2	15%	Written in person during your registered lecture time the week of March 17-21

Final Examination	40%	To be scheduled in the final exam period. To pass the course, students must earn at least 40% on the final exam.
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* We drop the lowest mark from your Prepare and Perform exercises in case you have to miss one due to illness or other personal circumstances. See the section on Special Consideration for more details.

PCRS: Prepare, Rehearse, Perform

- Also see: [PCRS \(https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/379470/pages/pcrs\)](https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/379470/pages/pcrs)

Prepare-Rehearse-Perform

Prepare (5%)	<p>We will post lecture videos and problems that cover the course topics to prepare you for the upcoming week. After watching the videos and working through the problems, you must complete the Prepare exercise.</p> <p>Each Prepare is due Monday by 9:00 AM . Week 1 has no prepare exercise.</p>
Rehearse	<p>Next, you will practice applying the concepts covered in the Prepare videos by completing activities of various kinds and working through more complex examples.</p> <p>You'll practice the material during your lecture time with the support of your instructor and teaching assistants. These activities are not for course credit, but are designed to help you get the practice you need to successfully complete the Perform exercises.</p>
Perform (10%)	<p>Finally, using PCRS and MarkUs, you'll complete a Perform exercise based on material covered in the Prepare and Rehearse phases.</p> <p>Each Perform exercise is due Friday by 4:00 pm. Week 1 has no Perform exercise.</p>

Lectures and Office Hours

Lectures: During lectures, you will practice the concepts covered in the preparation videos by working together with your peers on activities and worksheets. Before coming to class you should download (and perhaps print) copies of the worksheets for that week. Instructors will post materials presented in their class (often including worksheet solutions) on the lecture page for their section.

Video Recordings: In our experience, students who do not regularly attend live lectures do not do as well in the course as those who do, and are more likely to drop or fail. We plan to post a recording of one

section of the course each week, for students who may have to miss for illness or other personal reasons. However, we very strongly discourage using the recordings in place of attending class on a regular basis.

Office Hours: Office hours will be held primarily in person but some online office hours will be available. You do not need an appointment, you can simply show up and join the queue for help. "Office hours" are intended for you to ask questions about course material. The only questions that are not appropriate for office hours are those related to administrative or personal issues; these should be sent to the course email address. Having a "good" question is helpful, but not necessary, for attending office hours. If you aren't even sure what your question is, please come to office hours!

[More details including the Office Hours calendar \(https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/379470/pages/office-hours\)](https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/379470/pages/office-hours)

Term Tests

The term test will cover material from lectures, exercises, and assignments. Each term test is 50 minutes long and will be written in person. Students will write their tests during their scheduled one-hour lecture time; Term term 1 will be written on Wednesday February 12 or Thursday February 13. Term Test 2 will be written on Wednesday March 19 or Thursday March 20. More information about the content of each test and the room assignments will be provided closer to the date of the test.

Final Exam

The final exam covers the whole course, and takes place in person during the final exam period. It is scheduled and administered by the Faculty of Arts and Science. More details on the final exam will come later in the term.

Assignments

The due dates for assignments are:

- Assignment 1: Thursday January 30th before 4:00 pm
- Assignment 2: Thursday March 6th before 4:00 pm
- Assignment 3: Thursday March 27th before 4:00 pm

The assignments will be submitted electronically, using MarkUs. You will log in using your UTORid and password. To submit your work:

1. Navigate to the MarkUs page for the particular assignment

2. Click on the "Submissions" tab near the top.
3. Click "Add New File" and use the "Choose Files" button to choose a file.
4. Click "Submit". You can submit a new version of a file later (before the deadline, of course).

Once you have submitted, click on the file's name to check that you submitted the correct version!

Assignments: Late Policy

There is a one-hour grace period after an assignment deadline, during which no penalty will be applied. Assignments submitted after this one-hour grace period are late and will be accepted only under the policy on special consideration and accommodations below.

Assignments: Doing your Own Work

Academic Integrity is taken very seriously. Students who do not do their own work are at risk of not passing the course, and of not being prepared to be successful in future courses.

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>
(<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> (<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 another student's assignment solution, whether it is on paper or on the computer screen. Never show another student your assignment solution, including by pasting parts of it into a group chat. This applies to all drafts of a solution and to incomplete 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 offenses 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.
- Do not seek solutions online, or help outside of the CSC108 course staff. For example, do not post or look at posting on sites like Chegg. These sites contribute to a large number of our academic offense cases each term.
- Online tutors (human or AI) 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 CSC108 TAs or the CSC108 instructors.
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On the Use of Generative AI in CSC108

Generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT and GitHub CoPilot, are strongly discouraged in CSC108. Here's why:

- The **most important goal** of CSC108 is for you to be able to ***read and write code***.
 - Use of these tools can give you a false sense of mastery of the course material. Grades are intended to give you some feedback on your understanding of the course material. These tools may help you earn higher grades than your actual level of understanding.
 - Students who make use of generative AI to solve unsupervised coursework (e.g. Perform exercises, Assignments) are not developing the programming skills necessary to be successful on both supervised coursework (e.g. Term Test, Final Exam) and future courses (e.g. CSC148 and any other course that depends on mastery of the CSC108 material).
 - It is an academic offense to submit work that is not your own, whether that is generated by another human, or by AI.
 - Even if you are only using generative AI for studying and practice exercises that are not for marks, it can sometimes give incorrect answers or explanations, even on relatively simple programming questions.
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Special Consideration and Accommodations Policy for Assignments

We recognize that unexpected problems, illness, and disability-related barriers sometimes make it difficult to submit assignments on time. For this reason, we are adopting a policy of radical generosity with respect to assignment submissions. You may request an extension of up to one week for an assignment submission by completing this form (coming soon).

When an extension is granted under this policy, MarkUs will continue to display the original deadline and it will appear as if your submission is late. After we grade your assignment, the penalty assigned by MarkUs will be waived. The maximum extension that can be allowed is one week. Any assignments submitted beyond the one week extension and the one-hour grace period (even 1 second beyond) will not be graded.

This policy is intended to cover students who are registered with Accessibility services and require extra time to complete assignments as well as students who discover that they are unable to meet the original assignment deadline. Do not use it lightly to simply shift the original deadline. For example, if a student

has been granted an extension of 1 week and then becomes ill on the extended deadline, **no further extension will be given** unless the student has been ill for more than 7 days or the student's college registrar is involved due to extremely extenuating circumstances.

You may make use of this policy on as many assignments as you require.

Note that this policy only applies to assignments -- not to Prepare or Perform exercises which must be submitted on time. **No late submissions will be graded for Prepare or Perform exercises.**

Special Consideration for Missed Term Tests


Students experiencing illness or other emergencies that prevent them from being able to write a Term 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/ppjun011!>

, 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, 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 on a missed midterm, complete this [form](#) 

(<https://forms.office.com/r/LhmKZ1HYG5>). 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.* If your emergency will affect your ability to complete coursework in multiple courses, we recommend you also talk to your registrar. You should also complete the absence declaration form on ACORN.

Special Consideration for Other Homework

The policy on special consideration for assignment deadlines, should cover all illness, disability-related barriers, and other special considerations for Assignments. A student who has been ill **for the entire 7 days between the assignment deadline and the extension date**, may contact us through the course email address.

The reason that we allow students to count the best 10 of 11 (prepare exercises) and the best 10 of 11 (perform exercises) is so that they can miss an exercise due to illness or other unexpected circumstances. Students who are ill for **more than one prepare or perform exercise**, can email the course email (csc108-2025-01@cs.toronto.edu (<mailto:csc108-2025-01@cs.toronto.edu>)) to request

special consideration on the weighting of their completed work. Special consideration will not be granted for students who are only ill for a single prepare or perform exercise.

[Course Policies for Technical Issues \(https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/379470/pages/course-policies-for-technical-issues\)](https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/379470/pages/course-policies-for-technical-issues)

Accessibility Needs

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

Students who require accommodations for the midterm test and final exam need to register with Accommodated Testing Services.

Recordings

We will aim to make a recording available each week of one section of the course. These recordings are intended for students who have to miss an occasional lecture for illness or personal reasons. We strongly discourage students from planning to use recordings as their primary engagement with the course as our data shows that students who only participate asynchronously, and who do not have prior programming experience, are more likely to fall behind, drop, and fail the course.

Disclaimer: This course, including your participation, may be recorded on video and will be available to students in the course for viewing remotely and after each session.

Course videos and materials belong to your 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 session 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 questions about recording and use of videos in which you appear please contact your instructor.

Term Test 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 up to two weeks after tests are 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.

To request a remark for a test, please see the announcement about the test result availability for details.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

We, the students and teaching staff of CSC108, are all members of the same teaching and learning community, with a common goal of creating a safe and supportive learning environment for all students. Each of us has a responsibility towards this goal. We expect that each member of the community treats others with compassion and respect.

The following is UofT's general syllabus statement on equity:

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.

Copyright notice

Course materials prepared by the instructor are considered by the University to be an instructor's intellectual property covered by the Copyright Act, RSC 1985, c C-42. These materials are made available to you for your personal use, and cannot be shared outside of the class or published (made publicly available) in any way. Posting course materials or any recordings you may make to other websites without the express permission of the instructor will constitute copyright infringement.

This notice applies to all course materials, including (but not limited to): course notes, lecture materials, lecture recordings, sample tests, and assignment handouts, starter code, and solutions.

Lecture recordings

You may not make your own recordings of video, audio, or text chat from lectures, whether in person or online. Course staff may upload lecture recordings on the course website for your use (but you may not distribute these).

Your course work

Work that you complete for CSC108 (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 \(https://web.cs.toronto.edu/undergraduate/portfolio-advice\)](https://web.cs.toronto.edu/undergraduate/portfolio-advice).

[GitHub \(https://www.github.com/\)](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. You should not put your work publicly on GitHub. However, you may use GitHub's **private repositories** to store your own work. (See [GitHub's instructions for creating a repository \(https://docs.github.com/en/github/getting-started-with-github/create-a-repo\)](https://docs.github.com/en/github/getting-started-with-github/create-a-repo) and select "Private" in Step 4.)

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Mon Jan 13, 2025	 PCRS Prepare Exercise Due (https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=938912&include_contexts=course_379470)	9am
Fri Jan 17, 2025	 PCRS and MarkUs Perform Exercises Due (https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=938860&include_contexts=course_379470)	4pm
Mon Jan 20, 2025	 PCRS Prepare Exercise Due (https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=938913&include_contexts=course_379470)	9am
Fri Jan 24, 2025	 PCRS and MarkUs Perform Exercises Due (https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=938861&include_contexts=course_379470)	4pm
Mon Jan 27, 2025	 PCRS Prepare Exercise Due (https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=938914&include_contexts=course_379470)	9am
Thu Jan 30, 2025	 Assignment 1 (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/379470/assignments/1412735)	due by 4pm
Fri Jan 31, 2025	 PCRS and MarkUs Perform Exercises Due (https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=938862&include_contexts=course_379470)	4pm
Mon Feb 3, 2025	 PCRS Prepare Exercise Due (https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=938915&include_contexts=course_379470)	9am

Date	Details	Due
Fri Feb 7, 2025	 PCRS and MarkUs Perform Exercises Due (https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=938863&include_contexts=course_379470) 	4pm
Mon Feb 10, 2025	 PCRS Prepare Exercise Due (https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=938916&include_contexts=course_379470) 	9am
Wed Feb 12, 2025	 Term Test 1 (during lecture time slot) (https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=936985&include_contexts=course_379470) 	12am
Thu Feb 13, 2025	 Term Test 1 (during lecture time slot) (https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=936986&include_contexts=course_379470) 	12am
Fri Feb 14, 2025	 PCRS and MarkUs Perform Exercises Due (https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=938864&include_contexts=course_379470) 	4pm
Mon Feb 17, 2025	 PCRS Prepare Exercise Due (https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=938918&include_contexts=course_379470) 	9am
Mon Feb 24, 2025	 PCRS Prepare Exercise Due (https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=938919&include_contexts=course_379470) 	9am
Fri Feb 28, 2025	 PCRS and MarkUs Perform Exercises Due (https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=938867&include_contexts=course_379470) 	4pm
Mon Mar 3, 2025	 PCRS Prepare Exercise Due (https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=938920&include_contexts=course_379470) 	9am
Thu Mar 6, 2025	 Assignment 2 (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/379470/assignments/1412737) 	due by 4pm

Date	Details	Due
Fri Mar 7, 2025	 PCRS and MarkUs Perform Exercises Due (https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=938868&include_contexts=course_379470) 	4pm
Mon Mar 10, 2025	 PCRS Prepare Exercise Due (https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=938921&include_contexts=course_379470) 	9am
Fri Mar 14, 2025	 PCRS and MarkUs Perform Exercises Due (https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=938869&include_contexts=course_379470) 	4pm
Mon Mar 17, 2025	 PCRS Prepare Exercise Due (https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=938922&include_contexts=course_379470) 	9am
Wed Mar 19, 2025	 Term Test 2 (during lecture time slot) (https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=936987&include_contexts=course_379470) 	12am
Thu Mar 20, 2025	 Term Test 2 (during lecture time slot) (https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=936988&include_contexts=course_379470) 	12am
Fri Mar 21, 2025	 PCRS and MarkUs Perform Exercises Due (https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=938870&include_contexts=course_379470) 	4pm
Mon Mar 24, 2025	 PCRS Prepare Exercise Due (https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=938923&include_contexts=course_379470) 	9am
Thu Mar 27, 2025	 Assignment 3 (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/379470/assignments/1412738) 	due by 4pm
Fri Mar 28, 2025	 PCRS and MarkUs Perform Exercises Due (https://q.utoronto.ca/calendar?event_id=938871&include_contexts=course_379470) 	4pm