Course Syllabus

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[Last updated January 4, 2025]
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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. You are responsible for all announcements made 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 aspects of the course. Sophia Huynh is the Lab Coordinator, which means she deals with all aspects of the course related to the weekly preps and labs.

Office Hour Calendar	Office Hours (link to appear in the navigation sidebar once available)
Course email	csc148-2025-01@cs.toronto.edu (mailto:csc148-2025-01@cs.toronto.edu) Please send email from your UofT address and **include your full name and UTORid in the body of the email.**
Discussion Board	**Piazza (link in the navigation sidebar)**
MarkUs link	MarkUs [link to appear once set up]

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!**

We recommend using the online version, but there is also a pdf copy available **here** (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/379550/files/35472323?wrap=1) (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/379550/files/35472323/download?download_frd=1) if you prefer. You can also download pdf or markdown copies of any section of the notes when viewing the online version.

Lectures

Section	Room	Instructor
L0101 (Tu 9–11am; Th 10–11am)	BA1160	Ian Berlot-Attwell
L0201 (Tu 3–5pm; Th 3–4pm)	MP203	Sophia Huynh
L5101 (Tu 6–9pm)	MP202	Saba Sadatamin
L0301 (We 1–3pm; Fr 1–2pm)	MB128	Pan Chen

L0401/2 (We 2–4pm; Fr 3–4pm)	MY150	Jonathan Calver

Active Learning

During lectures, we will present material, demonstrate problem solving, and there will also regularly be activities that you participate in. Be prepared to get your gears turning in class! There is very strong evidence that active learning is more effective than passively listening to a lecture — and it tends to be a lot more fun!

Recordings

Some sections will be recorded and available to everyone through the OCCS Student App. Details will be provided once finalized.

Viewing the recorded materials may provide a poorer learning experience than participating actively in class. 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.

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 as we identify them.

Group Office Hours: for sharable questions

Group Office Hours will be held in person. We will go over concepts and examples based on your requests. You are welcome to bring questions, or just to listen and meet other students.

one-on-one office hours: for everything

There will be regular office hours held each week, and additional office hours held in the week prior to each assignment due date. These will be a mix of online and in-person. See the office hours calendar

for the most up-to-date schedule throughout the term.

Course email account: for personal matters

Please use the course email account (csc148-2025-01@cs.toronto.edu (mailto:csc148-2025-01@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.**

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 13th; 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.

Prerequisites

CSC108 or equivalent programming experience is assumed. We'll be using Python in the course, but past experience 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 announced 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)**

Dropping down to CSC108

Up until the deadline to add courses on Sunday January 19th, 2025, you may wish to drop down to CSC108 if you find that your prior programming experience is not allowing you to keep up with the content of this course. **After this date, you can speak to your College Registrar until Thursday January 30th, 2025 to request dropping down to CSC108.** Note: this will only be possible provided there is space available in the section of CSC108H1 in which you hope to enrol.

Course Software

For information about the software we'll use for this course, please see the **Software Guide (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/379550/pages/software-guide)** .

Assessments and Grading Scheme

You will complete four major kinds of assessments in this course: weekly preparation exercises, labs, assignments, and midterm/final exam. You will also complete a module on *Embedded Ethics in computing*. All assignments will consist of a Quercus quiz (worth 5%), an initial submission (worth 20%), and a final submission (worth 75%). Details will be included in the assignment handouts when they are posted.

Assessment	Weight	Notes
10 prep exercises	8%	1% each; best 8 of 10; due Tuesdays at 8AM Prep 1 is **not** for credit, but try to complete it before your first lecture.
setup and debugging activity	1%	due Wednesday January 15 at 6PM
8 labs (called "TUT" on Acorn)	7%	1% each; best 7 of 8

Assignment 0	5%	initial submission + Quercus Quiz: Monday January 27 at 6PM final submission: Monday February 3 at 6PM
Midterm	15%	During class time on Tuesday February 11 and Wednesday February 12.
Assignment 1	10%	initial submission + Quercus Quiz: Monday March 3 at 6PM final submission: Monday March 10 at 6PM
Assignment 2	10%	initial submission + Quercus Quiz: Monday March 24 at 6PM final submission: Monday March 31 at 6PM
Embedded Ethics Module	2% total: • 2 surveys: 0.5% each • Written exercise: 1%	• Pre-module survey due TBD • Written exercise due TBD • Post-module survey due TBD
Final Exam	42%	3-hour, comprehensive exam during the final assessment period. **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 Midterm

We are not able to offer a makeup midterm. For a student who misses the midterm, the **weight of the midterm will automatically be shifted to the final exam**; you do not need to do anything for this re-weight to be applied. If you miss the midterm, we recommend that you attempt a version of the midterm for self-assessment once the midterms and sample solutions are posted.

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. If you have never run the self-tests, we will NOT consider any remark requests for the assignment.**

You will be given 32 grace tokens on MarkUs. Each token will give you an additional 12 hours to submit an assignment — **up to a maximum of 96 hours (4 days) for any given assignment deadline (A0, A1, and A2 only; grace tokens cannot be applied to preps, labs, or the debugging activity)**. Grace tokens are automatically applied on MarkUs.

In most exceptional cases, the grace token extension of four days is expected to give you adequate time to complete the assignments. We strongly encourage you to treat the original deadline as the true deadline — only using your grace tokens when necessary.

If you are registered with accessibility services or experience a situation requiring special consideration beyond four days, please complete the special consideration form described below if you require further extensions.

Special Consideration

Students experiencing illness or other emergencies that prevent them from being able to complete homework on time 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/ppjun(** , 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 (link to be added once available)

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 that you are ready to perform well on the final exam.

Policy on generative AI

In this course, you may use generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including ChatGPT and MS Copilot, as learning aids and to help complete weekly preps, labs, and assignments.

You will not be permitted to use generative AI on the midterm test or final exam. As such, we caution you to not rely on these tools to complete your coursework. Instead, we recommend treating generative AI as a supplementary tool to help you learn the course material. Ultimately, you are responsible for your own learning in this course, and for all the work you submit for credit. It is your responsibility to critically 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.

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.