

Course Syllabus

[Jump to Today](#)

 Edit

Last modified: Jan 10, 2025

Final Syllabus will be published by the end of Week of Jan 13

[Course Calendar \(https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/379985/pages/course-calendar-and-important-dates\)](https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/379985/pages/course-calendar-and-important-dates)

Course Overview

“Computers” include all systems capable of computation – that is, the manipulation, transformation, and analysis of information using logical and mathematical processes. These processes of manipulation, transformation, and analysis are neither *natural* nor are they *neutral*; rather, they are deeply shaped by structures of power, systems of domination, hierarchies of knowledge, and circulations of financial capital. Computers are, therefore, essentially social technologies embedded in unique, complex, and historically specific social relations.

CSC300 introduces students to some of the ways in which computers and computing impact the people, institutions, environments, and belief systems that constitute our diverse and rapidly changing world. To make these connections clear, the course is highly focused on *real-world* events and their representations. To gain a more rounded understanding of how these representations work and what interests they serve, students will engage in a range of learning materials, including popular media, philosophy, social theory, and policy documents.

Assigned readings offer thematic case studies. Lectures examine these case studies by placing them in a larger cultural and intellectual context, and tutorials invite students to apply their own critical reasoning to these case studies and the critical perspectives offered in the lecture. Tests allow students to demonstrate their close attention to course material and to express and reflect on their own developing perspectives.

Learning Rewards

Through assigned readings, lecture attendance, tutorial participation, and test preparation, students in CSC300 will:

- Evaluate the cultural, ethical, and environmental implications of computational practices and technologies;
- Trace the historical development of computational systems and identify the influence of economic, political, and social forces on their evolution;

- Integrate insights from sociology, philosophy, and economics to examine the local and global impacts of computation;
- Assess potential future impacts of computational innovations on society and propose ethical, inclusive approaches to their development and use;
- Reflect on their roles as creators, users, and critics of technology, considering their responsibilities within a global context.

Team & Contact Info

Role	Name	Email	Office hours
Co-Instructor	Dr. Rachel Levine Levine is pronounced “Le – Vine” (rhymes with online)	rachel.levine[at]utoronto.ca (mailto:rachel.levine@utoronto.ca)	Time Sign up:
Co-Instructor	Yasaman Rohanifar	yasamanro[at]cs.toronto.edu (mailto:yasamanro@cs.toronto.edu)	Time Sign up:
Lead TA	Mohammad Rashidujjaman Rifat (Rifat)	rifat[at]cs.toronto.edu (mailto:rifat@cs.toronto.edu)	Time Sign up:

Contact Policy > Strictly Enforced!

If you need help with	Then please address it to...
Personal	Course email

Personal and highly sensitive <i>e.g., harassment, threats, crisis</i>	Both instructors
Tutorial logistics & office hours	Your TA, who will let you know their preferred method of communication in tutorial
Lecture material	Instructor Office Hours (not email) AND/OR Quercus discussion board.
Reading material and course concepts	TA's preferred method of communication, or Instructor Office Hours (not email) AND/OR Quercus discussion board.

When sending an email:

- DO NOT USE THE QUERCUS MESSAGING SYSTEM TO EMAIL THE INSTRUCTORS. If your TA prefers this, they will let you know.
- Use your institutional/ U of T email account.
- Always use subject line CSC300 – Last Name, First Name – tutorial section – topic
- E.g., CSC300 – Simpson, Homer – TUT0101 – donuts
- Last-minute emails will not receive first-minute replies. Expect 48 business hours for a response.
- Do not cc other parties unless you have discussed this with the recipient in advance.
- Remember that email is a form of professional communication. Organize your correspondence logically and coherently. Clearly state your question or concern. Be polite.
- Resist the urge to send reactive or frustrated emails and consider what might better be addressed in person – e.g., save requests for a grade review for a private meeting.
- *Don't panic:* if we have made a mistake that affects your transcript, we will fix it.

Course Structure & Evaluation

Lectures

- LEC5101: Mondays (6-8 PM) @ [BA 1180 \(https://map.utoronto.ca/?id=1809#!ct/45469?m/982031?s/BA\)](https://map.utoronto.ca/?id=1809#!ct/45469?m/982031?s/BA)

- LEC0101: Thursdays, (11 AM-1 PM) @ **KP 108** (<https://map.utoronto.ca/?id=1809#!ct/45469?m/983196?s/KP>)

Tutorials

Tutorial Section	Date and Time	Location	TA
5101	Mondays 8 PM	BA 2135	Anandita Mahika
5102	Mondays 8 PM	BA 2139	Manveer Kalirai
5103	Mondays 8 PM	BA 2159	Taneeza Agrawaal
5104	Mondays 8 PM	BA B024	Natalie Won
0101	Thursdays 1 PM	AB114	Anandita Mahika
0102	Thursdays 1 PM	BA 2139	Manveer Kalirai
0103	Thursdays 1 PM	BA 2155	Taneeza Agrawaal
0104	Thursdays 1 PM	KP 113	Shreyasha Paudel

Evaluation

Your total grade is based on a midterm test (30%), a final exam (35%), and tutorial participation throughout the term (35%).

- **Tests:** 65% of total grade
 - **Midterm (30%):**
 - Format: Combination of multiple choice, short answers, one essay/extended answer.
 - Date: Feb 10th / Feb 13th
 - Time: During regular class time
 - Location: TBA
 - **Final Exam (35%):**
 - Format: TBA
 - Date: During final exam period (April 9-30, 2025), exact date TBA

- Time: TBA
- Location: TBA
- **Tutorials:** 35% of total grade
 - Tutorials are held every week beginning Jan 13th. Some weeks, in-person tutorials will be swapped for pre-recorded tutorials led by the Course Instructors, followed by a short quiz.

Your Success in CSC300

- A significant portion of your grade is based on your *active* engagement in tutorials, and your success in this area depends on your close reading of the assigned materials. Therefore, you should do the readings critically and carefully before your tutorial.
- Attend lecture. Slides will be posted at the end of week/over the following weekend.
- If you have thoughts, ideas, feedback, suggestions, etc., make use of the Quercus discussion board, your TA availability, and the Course Instructors' office hours.

What Not to Do

- **DO NOT RECORD LECTURES OR TUTORIALS.** Lecture recording is prohibited and is considered a violation of the Instructors' intellectual property rights.
- Tutorial recording is prohibited and is considered a violation of students' privacy rights.
- Students who record or distribute recordings will be reported to the Chair.

More Resources & FYI

Academic Integrity:

Honesty and fairness are considered fundamental to the university's mission, and all those who violate these principles are dealt with as if they were damaging the integrity of the University itself. We expect that all students will abide by the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. To learn more about Academic Integrity, visit: <https://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/>

(<https://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/>). To learn more about Academic Misconduct, visit: <https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity/academic-misconduct> (<https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity/academic-misconduct>).

Accessibility Services:

This course is guided by the University of Toronto's goal to create a community that is inclusive of all persons and treats all members of the community in an equitable manner. In creating such a community, the University aims to foster a climate of understanding and mutual respect for the dignity and worth of all persons. Please find details here: <https://www.utoronto.ca/accessibility>
(<https://www.utoronto.ca/accessibility>)

Additional resources for accessibility services:

- <https://clockwork.studentlife.utoronto.ca/custom/misc/home.aspx>
(<https://clockwork.studentlife.utoronto.ca/custom/misc/home.aspx>)
- <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/accessibility-services/>
(<https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/accessibility-services/>)

Additional Resources

- For improving your writing
 - [Writing at the University of Toronto](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/) (<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/>)
 - [Dartmouth Institute of Writing and Rhetoric](http://writing-speech.dartmouth.edu/) ↗ (<http://writing-speech.dartmouth.edu/>)
- To learn more about Ethics at the University: [U of T Center for Ethics](https://ethics.utoronto.ca/) (<https://ethics.utoronto.ca/>)
- [Recognized Study Groups \(RSG\)](https://sidneysmithcommons.artsci.utoronto.ca/recognized-study-groups/) (<https://sidneysmithcommons.artsci.utoronto.ca/recognized-study-groups/>) are voluntary, peer-led study groups of 3 – 6 students enrolled in the same course. They're available for all A&S courses and are now fully online. In addition to supporting students' study habits and academic success, RSGs also encourage student participants to be socially connected with their peers. Last year, over 2,000 A&S students participated in RSGs for courses spanning all streams and class sizes.
- [Meet to Complete](https://sidneysmithcommons.artsci.utoronto.ca/meet-to-complete/) (<https://sidneysmithcommons.artsci.utoronto.ca/meet-to-complete/>) are online drop-in study sessions held exclusively for A&S undergrads. Offered multiple times per business day and led by trained A&S student-staff, these study sessions help students to stay motivated and productive by offering daily goal-setting and the opportunity to study alongside their A&S peers.
- U of T Library: <https://onesearch.library.utoronto.ca/> (<https://onesearch.library.utoronto.ca/>)
- Mental Healthcare: <http://mentalhealth.utoronto.ca/> (<http://mentalhealth.utoronto.ca/>)

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
------	---------	-----