Course Syllabus

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CSC207Y1: Software Design

Calendar description:

An introduction to software design and development concepts, methods, and tools using a statically-typed object-oriented programming language such as Java. Topics from: version control, unit testing, refactoring, object-oriented design and development, design patterns, advanced IDE usage, regular expressions, and reflection.

More details: **https://artsci.calendar.utoronto.ca/course/csc207h1 (https://artsci.calendar.utoronto.ca/course/csc207h1)**

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this course, you will:

- be able to effectively communicate about software design with your peers
- be comfortable using version control
- be able to write Java code to satisfy program specifications
- be able to apply the SOLID design principles, design patterns, and Clean Architecture to design object-oriented software solutions
- have experienced what it is like to work in a collaborative software development environment
- have a deeper understanding of how to approach testing your code
- be confident in your ability to use more advanced features of your IDE

Course Contact Information

Course email address: **csc207-2026-05@cs.toronto.edu (mailto:csc207-2025-05@cs.toronto.edu)**

Course instructor: Pan Chen

Lab coordinator: Sophia Huynh

Instructional support: Angela Hick

Lecture & Lab Schedule

	Time	Location
Lecture	Tuesday 6:10 PM - 8 PM	MP 203[1]
Lab	Thursday 6:10 PM - 8 PM	BA 3175, BA 3185, BA 2200, and BA 2210. Check **here** (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433013/groups) for your assigned room[2]

Please refer to ACORN for the most up-to-date information about the location of the course meetings.

1. Lectures will be recorded and made available for watching for two weeks (no exception will be made, we encourage you to come to the lectures). The course is designed to be in-person, except for lectures that require online activity (i.e., breakout room discussion). At the beginning of each lecture, a Zoom meeting will open at **https://utoronto.zoom.us/my/panchen** (https://utoronto.zoom.us/my/panchen) . The Zoom meeting will be ended if no one joins or requests a livestream before the lecture officially starts at 6:10 p.m so that the instructor can focus on the discussions in the classroom.

2. More details are at "Tutorials/Labs" section.

Office Hours

Below is the schedule for the instructor's office hour

Time	Location
Wednesday 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Saturday 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	**https://utoronto.zoom.us/my/panchen** (https://utoronto.zoom.us/my/panchen)

The full schedule including TA office hours, special office hours, will be posted on the **Office Hours** (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433013/pages/office-hours) page.

We encourage you to also make use of Piazza and the weekly tutorial time with your peers and TAs to ask questions as you learn the course material.

Marking Scheme

Course marking scheme

Course Work Title	Portion of Course Mark	Due Date / Notes
Weekly Review Activities	4% (1% each; best 4 of 6)	Quizzes will be available for the first 10 minutes of the tutorials
Participation points	1% (0.5% each)	There will be two surveys related to the Clean Architecture Review Activity. Anyone who completes each survey gets 0.5% of their final mark automatically.
5 Assignments	15% (3% each)	Assignments are individual work
Midterm Test	10%	Tentatively during the tutorial on June 4th.
Group Project	30%	Group Mark (19%) • Final presentation: 14% • Weekly progress: 5% • Note, without sufficient contribution, a student may get a **discounted group mark** Individual Mark (11%) • Your overall contribution to the project: 10%. • Feedback to other teams: 1%
Final Exam	40%	To be scheduled by the Faculty of Arts and Science **You need to achieve at least 40% on the final exam; otherwise, your course grade will be no higher than 47% and you cannot pass the course**

Weekly Plan

Please check **this page (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433013/pages/weekly-calendar-and-important-dates)** for our weekly plan, and due dates. For assignments, you may also check the due dates on MarkUs.

Course Topics by Block

The course is divided into three 4-week blocks.

Block 1: Software Developer Skills and Tools

- Version Control
- Java OOP
- Testing
- Refactoring

Block 2: Principles of Software Design

- SOLID design principles
- Clean Architecture (CA)
- Design patterns

Block 3: Professional and Miscellaneous Topics

- ethics modules on users and accessible design
- regular expressions (regex)
- communication and code review
- GenAI and prompt engineering
- interviewing for software jobs

Tutorials/Labs

We will use Tutorials & Labs interchangeably throughout the term.

Tutorials will be a good opportunity for students to apply what they have learnt during the lectures, meet and make connections, work on a group project.

Where shall I go for my tutorials/labs?

In short, you will know where you shall go for tutorials/labs by checking the Groups Page: **https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433013/groups (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433013/groups)**

- During the first lecture, students will be reminded to choose a lab room at **https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433013/groups (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/433013/groups)** . If a student does not have a preference, they will be randomly assigned to one of the available lab rooms on Tuesday May 12. **You may only attend the lab at the lab room assigned to you.**

- Before the midterm (Lab 5) on June 4, students may move to another lab room if there is space available. But please note that **all team members must go to the same lab room**.

Course Project

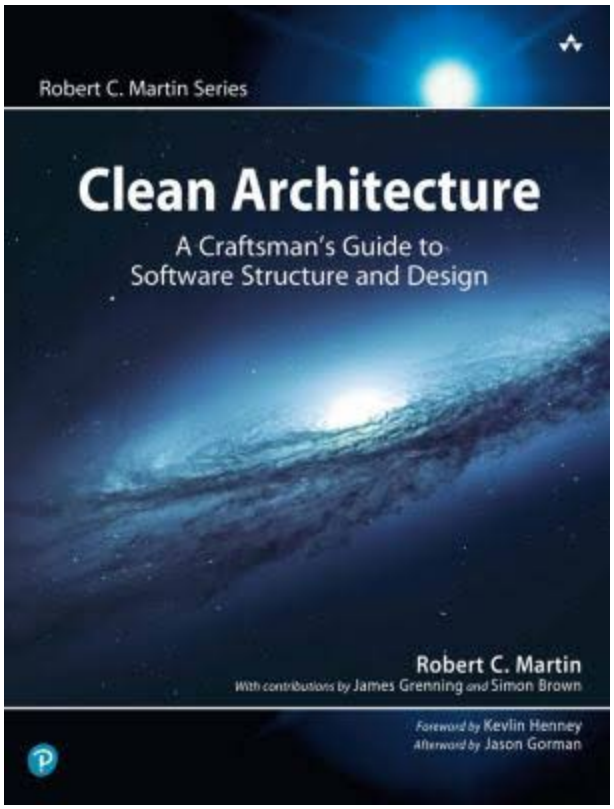
Course project plays an important role in CSC207. We encourage all students to be professional while working with their teammates.

Teams will be created by the teaching team before Lab 6.

While we will create the teams for you, we will respect your opinions - you have the opportunity to provide us with your preferences.

Textbook

Most of the core design concepts discussed in this course can be found in Clean Architecture by Robert Martin. The textbook is optional, but highly recommended. Past students have shared that they found the textbook to be very useful.



UofT students have free access to the online version of this book: **CLICK HERE TO ACCESS (https://librarysearch.library.utoronto.ca/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma991107120219506196&context=L&vid=01UTORONTO_INST:UTORONTO&lang=en&search_scope=**

You may also find the following optional books to be interesting reads:

- Object-Oriented Design & Patterns by Cay Horstmann is quite good; the first chapter is a nice crash course on Java
- Effective Java by Joshua Bloch (highly recommended if you plan to code more in Java beyond this course; its emphasis is on how you can best use Java — it doesn't teach the syntax)
- Program Development in Java by Barbara Liskov with John Guttag (takes a very formal approach to software design; in particular, their UI–FP (user interface – functional part) partitioning of the design of a system and their subsequent discussion fits well with our discussion of Clean Architecture in this course)
- Clean Code and Clean Craftsmanship by Robert Martin are also worth reading if you enjoy the author's writing style in Clean Architecture
- Refactoring by Martin Fowler is a great reference for the refactoring topic

Piazza

We will be using Piazza for class discussion. Once enrolled in the course, you should be automatically added to Piazza. The system is highly catered to getting you help fast and efficiently from both classmates and instructors. We encourage you to post course content questions on Piazza — don't be shy! If you have any problems or feedback for the developers of Piazza, you can email **team@piazza.com (mailto:team@piazza.com)** . From experience, they are very responsive and even open to implementing requested features!

Policies & Statements

Late Policy for Individual Work

Assignment Extension Requests

You are responsible for meeting all deadlines. However, we recognize that unexpected problems, illness and disability-related barriers sometimes make it difficult to submit assignments on time. (Note: Remember to value both your physical and mental health! We recognize that feeling emotionally unwell can be just as debilitating toward getting coursework completed on time.) In recognition of these challenges, we are adopting a policy aiming to be as flexible as possible. You may request an extension of **up to one week (7 days) from the original deadline** for all assignments.

To receive an extension, you must submit this form: CSC207 (Summer 2026) Special Consideration for Assignment Extensions – Fill out form
PLEASE NOTE: all extensions are independent, so **you must complete a NEW FORM for each assignment that requires an extension.**
When an extension is requested under this policy:

- the extension begins from the original assignment due date and time
- the deadline is typically updated on MarkUs within an hour
- the maximum extension that is allowed is one week

Do not use this policy to simply shift the original deadline. If you ask for an extension because you need more time and then during the extension period you become ill or face another challenge that impacts your ability to complete the assignment, you will not be granted any additional extensions beyond the maximum.

Assignment Special Consideration Requests Beyond 7-days

If you're experiencing illness, mental health crises, family/personal emergencies, or other exceptional circumstances beyond your control that prevent you from being able to complete an assessment with the 7-day extension, you can apply for special consideration by filling out this special consideration form (**LINK coming soon**). Please note that should your special consideration be approved, we will shift the weight to your final exam instead of granting a further extension.

Special consideration to reweight the assignment to the final exam will be considered if the reason for the request began before the original assignment deadline, persisted during the entire extension period, and continued beyond the extended deadline.

For a special consideration to be granted, you must provide valid documentation (e.g., a Verification of Illness or Injury form, an Absence Declaration, an Accommodations letter from Accessibility Services, or an Advisor letter from your College Registrar's Office). Without valid documentation, your request may be ignored. Your special consideration request is approved only if we send you an email response with confirmation.

Please note that special consideration cannot be granted to accommodate for a heavy course load, multiple assignments and/or tests scheduled during the same period, or challenges with time management.

Late Policy for Group Work

The course project requires group work. If your group experiences delays due to illness of one or more of your group members, please discuss with your tutorial TA or contact the course address (**csc207-2026-05@cs.toronto.edu (mailto:csc207-2025-05@cs.toronto.edu)**) to discuss reasonable accommodations.

Missing Weekly Review Activities (Quizzes)

If you miss any weekly review activities, **there won't be make-up activities**. Instead, we are taking the best 4 out of 6 quizzes for a total of 4%. If you have more than one missing weekly review activity (let's say, N), we will shift the weights of (N-2) missing weekly review activities to your final exam.

Missing Midterm

If you miss the midterm, we will shift the 10% to the final exam. You don't need to apply for it, it will be done automatically.

Remark Requests

All remark requests will be done through MarkUs, and they will be handled before final course grades are submitted. If requesting a remark, you must submit such requests within **two weeks** of the work being returned. Remark requests submitted *after* two weeks of the work being returned will not be accepted. No exceptions.

Releasing Assessment Marks

To give you information about your standings in the course, we will release marks in a timely manner. We will try to update marks on MarkUs on Mondays when applicable.

Details:

- For Assignments, we will aim to release the marks after grace tokens can no longer be used and after academic integrity checks have taken place.
- For Weekly Review Activities, we will aim to release the marks on the following Monday.
- For Participation points, we will aim to release the marks on the following Monday after the survey is due.
- For the Midterm, we will aim to release the mark before the summer break starts.
- For the Group Project, we will aim to release the mark as soon as possible once all teams are done with their presentations.
- For the Final Exam, we will not release the mark, however, you should be able to calculate your mark based on the marks you received from other assessments.

Please note that all released marks are tentative. The teaching team can adjust the marks for reasons such as new evidence found in academic integrity issues, corrections in marking, etc. The released marks are for your reference. Please check ACORN for the finalized grades after the course concludes.

Academic Integrity

Please familiarize yourself with the Rules and Regulations from the U of T Calendar (especially the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters): **http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai (http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai)** . For assessments for this course, the teaching team reserves the right to run students' submissions using a plagiarism detection tool. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (**https://uoft.me/pdt-faq) (https://uoft.me/pdt-faq))** .

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019). If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, please reach out to me. Note that you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from me or from other institutional resources. For example, to learn more about how to cite and use source material appropriately and for other writing support, see the U of T writing support website at http://www.writing.utoronto.ca. Consult the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters for a complete outline of the University's policy and expectations. For more information, please see A&S Student Academic Integrity (https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity) and the University of Toronto Website on Academic Integrity (https://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca).

Use of Generative AI

The use of Generative AI is allowed throughout the course. With this said, we caution you to not rely entirely on these tools to complete your coursework. Instead, we recommend treating the use of generative AI as a supplementary tool only for exploration and engaging with the course material. 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. Over reliance on generative AI may give you a false sense of how much you've actually learned, which can lead to poor performance on the final exam, in later courses, or in future work or studies after graduation.

You must disclose how you have used AI or not in your assignment and project submissions on MarkUs (there will be a required file named `ai.txt`). If you do not use any AI tool, you must specify this in the submissions.

Specific Medical Circumstances

If you become ill and it affects your ability to do your academic work, consult me right away. Normally, I will ask you for documentation in support of your specific medical circumstances. This documentation can be an Absence Declaration (via ACORN) or the University's Verification of Student Illness or Injury (VOI) form. The VOI indicates the impact and severity of the illness, while protecting your privacy about the details of the nature of the illness. If you cannot submit a VOI due to limits on terms of use, you can submit a different form (like a letter from a doctor), as long as it is an original document, and it contains the same information as the VOI (including dates, academic impact, practitioner's signature, phone and registration number). For more information on the VOI, please see **http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca (http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/)** . For information on Absence Declaration Tool for A&S students, please see **https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/absence (https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/absence)** . If you get a concussion, break your hand, or suffer some other acute injury, you should register with Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

Students with Disabilities or Accommodation Requirements

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have an acute or ongoing disability issue or accommodation need, you should register with Accessibility Services (AS) at the beginning of the academic year by visiting https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/accessibility-services (https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/accessibility-services) . Without registration, you will not be able to verify your situation with your instructors, and instructors will not be advised about your accommodation needs. AS will assess your situation, develop an accommodation plan with you, and support you in requesting accommodation for your course work. Remember that the process of accommodation is private: AS will not share details of your needs or condition with any instructor, and your instructors will not reveal that you are registered with AS.

Accommodation for Personal Reasons

There may be times when you are unable to complete course work on time due to non-medical reasons. If you have concerns, speak to me or to an advisor in your College Registrar's Office; they can help you to decide if you want to request an extension or other forms of academic consideration. They may be able to email your instructors directly to provide a College Registrar's letter of support and connect you with other helpful resources on campus.

Religious Accommodations

As a student at the University of Toronto, you are part of a diverse community that welcomes and includes students and faculty from a wide range of cultural and religious traditions. For my part, I will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, examinations, or other compulsory activities on religious holy days not captured by statutory holidays. Further to University Policy, if you anticipate being absent from class or missing a major course activity (such as a test or in-class assignment) due to a religious observance, please let me know as early in the course as possible, and with sufficient notice (at least two to three weeks), so that we can work together to make alternate arrangements.

Fair and Honest Feedback to Team Members

This course provides every student an opportunity to work with other students. Every team member needs to make contributions. We appreciate the diversity of our students, and we acknowledge that different students might make different contributions to their project. Therefore, we have provided the bi-weekly peer feedback for the team members to give feedback to others. We encourage team members to raise professional, constructive, and actionable feedback to their team members. We do not tolerate personal feedback that presents harassment or discrimination. We encourage students to raise honest feedback that can help every team member to learn and improve the teamwork.

Quercus Info

This Course uses the University's learning management system, Quercus, to post information about the course. This includes posting readings and other materials required to complete class activities and course assignments, as well as sharing important announcements and updates. New information and resources will be posted regularly as we move through the term. To access the course website, go to the U of T Quercus log-in page at **https://q.utoronto.ca**.

Please also note that **any grades posted are for your information only**, so you can view and track your progress through the course. No grades are considered official, including any posted in Quercus at any point in the term, until they have been formally approved and posted on ACORN at the end of the course. Please contact me as soon as possible if you think there is an error in any grade posted on Quercus.