Course Syllabus

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[Tentative until this line is removed]
Revisions: Jan 5th – updated ethics module due dates
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Welcome to *CSC148: Introduction to Computer Science*! In this course, you'll learn how computer scientists solve problems. We'll focus on how to design object-oriented programs in a clear and organized way. You'll explore key ideas like breaking problems into smaller parts, separating *what* code does from *how* the code does it, comparing different solutions to the same problem, and building data structures to make your programs more efficient.

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.

Suhail Mughal provides Instructional Support for the course. You'll most likely get a reply from him when emailing the course address.

Sophia Huynh is the Lab Coordinator, which means she deals with all aspects of the course related to the weekly preps, labs, and auto-testing.

Office Hour Calendar	Office Hours (link to appear in the navigation sidebar once available)
Course email	csc148-2026-01@cs.toronto.edu (mailto:csc148-2026-01@cs.toronto.edu) Please send email from your UofT address and **include your UTORid in the body of the email.**
Discussion Board	**Piazza (link in the navigation sidebar)**
MarkUs link	(link will be added here and in the navigation sidebar once available)

Textbook

We'll be using online **course notes** (https://www.teach.cs.toronto.edu/~csc148h/notes/) throughout the term; **this is your required reading for this course**. You can 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	Saba Sadatamin
L0201 (Tu 3–5pm; Th 3–4pm)	MP203	Sophia Huynh
L5101 (Tu 6–9pm)	MP202	Erfan Meskar
L0301 (W 1–3pm; Fr 1–2pm)	MB128	Pan Chen

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

Active Learning

Be prepared to get your gears turning in class! Active learning can be more effective than just passively listening to a lecture — and it tends to be a lot more fun! The majority of lecture time will be devoted to worksheet activities allowing you to develop your problem solving skills and master the course material collaboratively with your peers.

Recordings

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

If you are unable to attend a lecture, we strongly encourage you to consider attending another section, finding a group of students to work through the active learning activities with outside of lecture time, or finding an office hour time that fits your schedule so that you can ask any questions that you may have.

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.**

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. Please 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 (csc148-2026-01@cs.toronto.edu (mailto:csc148-2026-01@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.**

Prerequisites

CSC108 (taught in Python) or equivalent programming experience (e.g., an introductory course in Python, Java, or C) is assumed. There will be a **rampup session** during a weekend early in the 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 once finalized.

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, 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 (https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/college-registrars-offices) until Monday, January 26th 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 intend to enrol.

Course Software

You will be using Python and PyCharm in this course, which are both freely available for download

and are installed on the lab machines.

For additional information about the software we'll use for this course, please see the **Software Guide (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/418446/pages/software-guide)**

Grading Scheme

Assessment	Weight	Notes
10 prep exercises	8%	1% each; best 8 of 10; **due Tuesdays at 8AM** Note: Prep 1 is **not** for credit, but please plan to complete it before your first lecture. See **Policies and Guidelines: Weekly Preparation Exercises (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/418446/pages/policies-and-guidelines-weekly-preparation-exercises)** for additional details.
setup and debugging activity	1%	due Wednesday January 14 at 5PM
5 mock tests during labs	8% (2% each, best 4 of 5 counted)	during your TUT section. **In person**. See the Labs section for details.
Assignment 0	5%	initial submission + Quercus Quiz: Monday January 26 at 6PM final submission: Monday February 2 at 6PM
Midterm	16%	During LEC time on Tuesday February 10 and Wednesday February 11.

Assignment 1	10%	initial submission + Quercus Quiz: Monday March 2 at 6PM final submission: Monday March 9 at 6PM
Assignment 2	10%	initial submission + Quercus Quiz: Monday March 23 at 6PM final submission: Monday March 30 at 6PM
Embedded Ethics Module	2% total: • 2 surveys: 0.5% each • Written exercise: 1%	Pre-module survey due Monday March 23 at 11:59PM Written exercise due Thursday April 2 at 11:59PM Post-module survey due Thursday April 2 at 11:59PM
Final Exam	40%	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%.**

Labs

After lectures each week, you will participate in a two-hour lab, where you will reinforce and extend your learning from lecture. **The first labs are the week of January 12th; there are no labs the first week of the course**.

Like lectures, all labs 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.

The lab room you attend will be based on the last digit of your TUT section. If your TUT ends in...

- **01** (TUT0101, TUT0201, etc.) you will be in **BA3175**
- **02** (TUT0102, TUT0202, etc.) you will be in **BA3185**

- **03** (TUT0103, TUT0203, etc.) you will be in **BA3195**
- **04** (TUT0104, TUT0204, etc.) you will be in **BA2200**

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. For more information about the labs, please refer to **Policies and Guidelines: Weekly Labs (https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/394658/pages/policies-and-guidelines-weekly-labs) .**

The mock test labs will be graded for participation and will occur in weeks 3, 5, 8, 10 and 11. While the other labs will *not* be graded, the material is testable.

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 strongly recommend that you attempt a version of the midterm for self-assessment once the midterm 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 that 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 **16 grace tokens** on MarkUs. Each token will give you an additional 24 hours (1 day) 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 based on the time of your last file upload.

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 Form (link will 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 AI tools, such as ChatGPT and MS Copilot, as learning aids and to help complete your weekly preps 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.

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.

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 (https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-student-conduct-december-13-2019)** . Please be mindful of how your behaviour 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.