CSC104, Winter 2006
Course information sheet

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Here's a summary of the administrative details of CSC104, "The why and how of computing," for Winter 2006. Please check the course web page (below) often.

COURSE WEB PAGE: See http://www.cs.toronto.edu/~heap/104/104W06 for ongoing course information. You are responsible for announcements posted here, and you should check it weekly.

LECTURES: Lectures are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 – 10 a.m. in SS2117 ("SS" is for Sidney Smith hall). I can be reached in person in BA3222 ("BA" is for Bahen Centre), in SS2117 during lectures, asynchronously at heap@cs.toronto.edu, or occasionally at 416-978-5899.

If you've got questions that aren't answered in class, come to office hours, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30–noon, in BA3222. You may also question and revise lecture material on-line by clicking on "Lectures" on the course web page.

TUTORIALS: Tutorials begin the SECOND Friday of classes. There will be three tests during tutorial (see marking scheme below), and during the remaining nine tutorials there will be material on problem-solving and exercises to help get you started on your assignments.

TEXTBOOK AND COMPUTING: There are two recommended texts for this course "Computer science, an overview," By J. Glenn Brookshear, Addison Wesley, and "Using Information Technology, a Practical Introduction to Computers & Computing," Williams and Sawyer, McGraw-Hill. Neither text is required, but you'll find the first text useful if you go further in computer science, and the second gives some practical background. Each student enrolled in the course will have an account at cdf.toronto.edu, so that you can experiment with software and send and receive mail there.

SYLLABUS: We will discuss the following topics:

- Problem solving and algorithms
- History of computing machines
- Hardware, software, OS: components of a contemporary computer
- Outside the box: the web and internet
- Data representation and manipulation
- Programming techniques and the software cycle
- Computers and society

MARKING SCHEME: The marking scheme is designed to put a low weight (37%) on the final exam, since I believe this reduces a potential source of stress for students. In order to do this I will need to make several smaller (and hence, I hope, less stressful) evaluations of your work. In the marking scheme below most items are worth 6%–12% of your final mark, depending on how you do. The procedure will be to sort 7 pieces of term work, and your best effort is marked out of 12%, your next best out of 11%, continuing until your worst effort is marked out of 6%. Each test is correlated with material on the assignment preceding it. You must receive at least 40% on the final exam to pass this course.

ITEM	DUE	WORTH
Participation	January 10th – April 13th	6%–12%
Assignment 1	Thursday February 2	6%–12%
Test 1	Friday February 10	6%–12%
Assignment 2	Thursday March 2	6%–12%
Test 2	Friday March 10	6%–12%
Assignment 3	Thursday March 30	6%–12%
Test 3	Friday April 7	6%–12%
Final exam	Three hours during the exam period	37%

LATENESS, SICKNESS, NATURAL DISASTERS: Late work cannot be accepted, since we will be posting solutions promptly. If you have special circumstances that force you to miss a deadline, please contact me immediately (usually before the work is due) and fill out either the "Request for special consideration," or the standard medical excuse form, (both forms are available on the web page) and provide all supporting documentation. Although I won't accept late work, I will do my best to ensure that there is no penalty for a deadline missed for a valid reason.

INDEPENDENT WORK: Passing off somebody else's work as your own for credit is a serious academic offense, and it can have serious academic consequences. Be sure to give full and generous credit to any person or book (except the instructor and teaching assistants) you consult in solving your assignments. If you take notes when you consult a source, then you should quote that source in full.

If you intend to present work as your own, for credit, then you should avoid looking at similar work by other students, in either written or electronic form, since looking can easily turn into plagiarism. Avoid showing your own assignments to other students.