

# CSC 236 Guide to HWs

Summer 2023

## 1.) Main goals for the HWs:

- Practice solving problems and using techniques developed in the lectures.
- Solidify understanding of the course material.
- Connect topics from the course to applications and other fields.
- Have some fun :)

2.) Homework in this class should be considered very low pressure. You're not asked to produce a correct solution, just to try your best to understand the problems. With that in mind, I hope you approach the problems with a relaxed mindset. The problems are not there to test you - rather, they are there to help you learn. Don't be discouraged if you get stuck or can't solve a problem - see that as an opportunity to learn!

3.) Since I ultimately care about whether or not you eventually understand the problems and solutions, I do not care HOW this happens. In particular, you may use any resources you like to help you. However, generally, people learn much better if they actively try to solve the problem first rather than searching for a solution immediately. Therefore, I recommend you struggle with a problem for at least one hour before you seek help.

4.) A deep understanding of the problems and solutions will help you on the midterm and final (in which at least 20% of the points are heavily based on the hw).

5.) Work with other people! Seeing how others think is invaluable, and having to explain your ideas helps you retain them better and may expose misunderstandings. As a reminder, TA check ins are to be done in pairs, but that doesn't mean you can't collaborate with more people.

6.) Show up to office hours!

7.) Prepare questions for the TA check ins.

8.) Generic math tips:

- Draw things out
- Try to make a problem concrete in a certain way by perhaps trying out small examples.
- Review the lecture and tutorial. Read the relevant chapters of the textbook.