

# CSC 236 - Introduction to the Theory of Computation

## Syllabus

Summer 2025

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## 1 Course Description

The official course code for this course is CSC236H1 Y LEC5101 20255. The title is *Introduction to the Theory of Computation*. The prerequisite for this class is CSC165 (or equivalent). See [here](#) for the learning outcomes of this course.

## 2 Course Delivery

Lectures and tutorials are on U of T time. That is, they start 10 minutes late.

Lectures are in person at BA1130 in the Bahen Building. They are on Wednesdays from 18:00-20:00.

I will record lectures but I cannot guarantee the quality of the recordings. My focus will be on the students attending the lecture in person. I may occasionally draw stuff on the board and this will not be captured on recordings.

Tutorials are in person in one of BA{2135, 2139, B024, 2159}. Check on Acorn to see which tutorial you are in. They are immediately after the lecture, i.e., Wednesdays from 20:00-21:00.

## 3 People

The instructor is Harry Sha. The TAs are Yibin Zhao, Mian Wei, Jeremy Ko, Deepanshu Kush, Logan Murphy. Angela Hick will also be helping out with the course.

## 4 Communication

The primary method of communication will be announcements on Piazza, which will send email notifications—make sure you check your emails frequently so you don't miss any important announcements!

**The best way to contact course staff is to post on Piazza** (they can be private).

## 5 Office Hours

See the course calendar (on the course website) for the most up-to-date times and locations for office hours.

## 6 Course Materials

All lecture slides, lecture recordings, tutorial handouts, and tutorial solutions will be available on the course website:

<https://www.cs.toronto.edu/~shaharry/csc236/>

Additional suggested readings are posted on the course website.

## 7 Platforms

We will use Piazza as the discussion board. We will use Crowdmark for grading.

## 8 Tech Requirements

You will be required to have access to a computer to find all the course materials.

## 9 Coursework and Grading Breakdown

- 1.) Term Test 1 15%
- 2.) Term Test 2 22.5%
- 3.) Term Test 3 22.5%
- 4.) Final: 40%
- 5.) Piazza Contributor Prize 2%

Note that your grade will be clipped at 100%

### Exams

The three term tests will be during class time. They are tentatively scheduled for 05/21, 06/11, and 07/16. The final (date TBD) will count for 50% of your grade.

### Piazza Contributor Prize

There is an additional 2% grade boost for the top 3 contributors on Piazza.

The prizes will go to those who have the most instructor-endorsed answers, with ties broken by the number of questions asked.

### AI policy

I encourage you to use ANY resource to help you learn. Just be careful not to rely too much on it - you will not be allowed to use any outside resources in the exams (apart from a cheatsheet).

### Regrade requests

Regrade requests are possible for term tests. If you would like to request a regrade, make a private post on Piazza explaining why you think your solution deserves more points. We will take a look at it and regrade the question.

Regrades must be submitted within 7 days from when marks are released.

## 10 Special Considerations

If you find that illness or another emergency is preventing you from being able to write a term test, please let us know as soon as possible.

If you miss one term test, your score will be calculated based on the grade distribution for that term test and your scores on future exams, including the final.

If you have to miss more than one term test, you should check in with me (Harry).

If you have to miss the final, you can take a deferred exam. See [here](#).

## 11 Use of the Discussion Board

Please use Piazza! Ask and answer many questions! Please remember to be respectful when interacting on the discussion board - we are all here to learn!

## **12 Participation**

Participation is encouraged at both lectures and tutorials. However, it is not required for your grade.

## **13 Academic Integrity**

The term tests and final exams are strictly no collaboration. They will be administered in person.

In general, you should follow the policies found [here](#).