

CSC 236 - Introduction to the Theory of Computation

Syllabus

Summer 2023

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1 Course Description

The official course code for this course is CSC236H1 Y LEC5101 20235. 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.

Tutorials are in person at BA2165, BA2195, BA2159, BA2139. They are immediately after the lecture, i.e. Wednesdays from 20:00-21:00.

3 People

The instructor is Harry Sha. The TAs are Matthew Hagan, Lawrence Li, Lily Li, and Logan Murphy.

4 Communication

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

The best way to get in touch with course staff is to post on Ed (they can be private).

The second best way is to email me shaharry@cs.toronto.edu.

5 Office Hours

The instructor will hold weekly (starting week 2) office hours in person. See the course calendar (on the course website) for the most up-to-date times and locations.

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/>

There are additional suggested readings posted on the course website.

7 Platforms

We will use Ed 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.) TA check-ins: 10% ($5 \times 2\%$)
- 2.) Midterm: 40%
- 3.) Final: 50%
- 4.) Ed Contributor Prize 2%

There might extra credit opportunities related to the homeworks throughout the semester.

Note your grade will be clipped at 100%.

TA check-ins

There will be 5 homeworks throughout the semester and a TA check-in for each homework. Homeworks and TA check-ins are to be done in pairs.

The TA check-ins serve two purposes.

- 1.) Check that you have made an honest attempt on the homework
- 2.) Provide opportunity for you to ask specific questions to your TA.

You will get full credit for the Check-in if you demonstrate 1.)

You do not need a correct solution to get full marks. However, you should still be sure to complete and understand the solutions to each homework since it will help you in the exams. (See the note in the next section)

Exams

The midterm is June 28th, 6-9PM at EX100, will count for 40% of your grade.

The final (date TBD) will count for 50% of your grade.

Note that at least 20% of each exam will be based on problems from the homework. The idea is to motivate you to understand the homework problems, and to mitigate the fact that the exams count for a large percentage of your grade.

Ed Contributor Prize

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

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

Regrade requests

Regrade requests are possible for the midterm. If you would like to request a regrade, make a private post on Ed 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 other emergency is preventing you from being able to complete a check in or write a test, please follow these two steps:

- a.) Fill in the [Absence Declaration Form](#). on ACORN
- b.) Complete the [SpecialConsiderationForm.pdf](#) and email it to csc236-2023-05@cs.toronto.edu.

You will be required to affirm that you are abiding by the [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#). In particular

it is an offense to engage in any form of cheating, academic dishonesty or misconduct, fraud or misrepresentation not herein otherwise described to obtain academic credit or another academic advantage of any kind

That is, that you are truly experiencing an emergency and acknowledge that to claim so falsely is an academic offense. Please note that a heavy workload or coinciding due dates do not constitute an emergency. Applying does not guarantee that you will be granted special consideration.

Important: Submit your request soon as possible if you find yourself in such a situation. It is easier to resolve situations earlier rather than later. If your emergency will affect

your ability to complete coursework for more than a few days or in multiple courses, we recommend you also talk to your registrar.

11 Use of the Discussion Board

Please use Ed! 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. It would be helpful to show up for the first tutorial for partner finding purposes.

13 Academic Integrity

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

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