

CSC343 Syllabus, Winter 2016

Logistics

Instructor Diane Horton: dianeh at cs dot utoronto dot ca

Lectures L0101/L2001 L0201/L2201 L5101/L2501
MWF12 (RW117) MWF2 (LM162) T6-9 (LM161)

Office Hours **New:** MTWF 3:30-4:30 (BA4236), or by appointment

Contact: Website, Email, Discussion Board

Information from me: The course website <http://www.cdf.toronto.edu/~csc343h/winter> is required reading. It contains assignment handouts and other essential material. The course discussion board is on [Piazza](#). You are responsible for reading all postings made by me or the TAs.

Questions from you: Please use Piazza to ask questions about assignments and course lecture material so that everyone can benefit. For personal questions, email me from your UofT address. Please include "343" in the subject line and include your full name and CDF account.

My email: dianeh at cs dot utoronto dot ca

I will try to respond to email and Piazza postings by the end of the next business day. However, it may take longer, especially near due dates. Try to start assignments early in case you have questions. If you do not hear back quickly, I am always available during office hours to help.

Prerequisites

Arts and Science students: If you don't have the course prerequisites listed in the [calendar entry](#), contact me immediately to see whether you may remain in the course. Include your name, student number, full academic history from ROS/Acorn, and why you feel you are well prepared to take the course. If I don't issue a waiver, the registrar will remove you from the course.

Engineering students: If you don't have the course prerequisites listed in your calendar, your registrar may not allow you to take the course without my permission. If so, email me with your name, student number, full academic history from ROS/Acorn, and why you feel you are well prepared to take the course.

Active Classes, and Preparation for Them

During class time in this course, I will present material and demonstrate problem solving for part of the time. There will also regularly be activities that you participate in. Be prepared to get your gears turning in class! There is good evidence, and our experience also shows, that active learning works better than passively listening to a lecture. I also think it's a lot more fun. We will use all three hours (lecture and tutorial times) for these kinds of classes, led by me.

During some in-class activities, students will see and discuss each other's solutions to problems. This is your official notice (per the University's privacy regulations) that your personal information will be used in this way. If you wish to opt out of these particular activities, please notify me at the beginning of the term. Opting out will not directly impact your mark in the course, but you will lose a valuable learning opportunity.

To prepare for these active classes, you will be doing weekly activities outside of class. These will involve learning some material on your own, through readings or videos, and practising things we've learned in class. They will always culminate in some small exercises that you hand in. **These weekly activities are not intended to be greatly time consuming.**

Course Marking Scheme

Component	Weight	Description	Due
Lecture Preparation	10% (1% each)	10 weekly lecture preparation activities	Sundays 11:00pm (Sunday at the start of weeks 2-12, except for week 7)
Assignment 1	10%	Relational Algebra	Wednesday, February 10 8:00pm
Assignment 2	10%	Interactive and Embedded SQL	Wednesday, March 16 8:00pm
Assignment 3	10%	XML Query Languages (XPath, XQuery) Design & Normalization	Wednesday, April 6 8:00pm
Midterm Test	15%	Topic coverage to be announced	L0101: Wednesday, February 24 at 12:00 noon L0201: Wednesday, February 24 at 2:00pm L5101: Tuesday, February 23 at 6:00pm

Cumulative (all topics covered)
Final exam 45% **Note:** In order to pass this course, you must earn at least 40% [During the exam period](#) on the final exam.

Resources

These two resources are suggested to support your learning in the course:

- The textbook "A First Course in Database Systems" by Jeffrey D. Ullman and Jennifer Widom, 2008 (3rd Edition), available new and used at the UofT bookstore, and online from the [publisher](#), [Chapters](#), or [Amazon](#). It is also available on two-hour loan at the Engineering Library in the Sandford Fleming Building.
- The [online mini-courses](#) by Jennifer Widom at Stanford University.

Working with a Partner

You have the option of partnering with one other CSC343 student for your assignments, and I encourage you to do so. You may choose your own partner, from any section of the course on the St George campus, and it need not be the same person for each assignment. Once you begin working on an assignment, you may not dissolve your partnership without my permission. Both partners will receive the same mark for joint assignments.

Working with a partner has the potential to lighten your workload and enhance your learning or to increase your workload and impair your learning, depending on how you work together. Remember that you are responsible for learning the course material underlying all parts of the assignments. You will have the most success if you truly work together.

Assignment Policies

Assignments are due on **Wednesdays at 8:00 pm** sharp. Assignments must be submitted electronically, using the [MarkUs online system](#). Log in with your CDF username and password. 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. Code that you submit to me for grading must work on the CDF machines in order to earn credit.

Late Assignments

I recognize that unexpected problems sometimes make it difficult to submit assignments on time. For this reason, I will be using **grace tokens** to give you flexibility with assignment deadlines.

Each student will receive **six** grace tokens; each grace token can be used for a **two-hour extension** for an assignment. For example, you may choose to use all six grace tokens on the first assignment, extending its deadline by twelve hours. Or, you may wish to use two tokens for each assignment, extending each deadline by four hours.

MarkUs automatically deducts grace tokens when you submit an assignment late - you do *not* need to explicitly say you are using a grace token. If you work with a partner on an assignment, grace tokens are deducted **from every team member**, not just one of you. For example, if Alice and Bob are working together, and wish to submit an assignment 3 hours late, they must **both** have at least two grace tokens remaining.

You may **not** use grace tokens to extend the deadline of the weekly lecture prep activities.

Special Consideration

If you are unable to complete homework or if you miss a test due to major illness or other circumstances completely outside of your control, get in touch with me immediately if you want to receive special consideration.

In order to receive special consideration, you must fill out a [Request for Special Consideration Form](#). Bring the form to your me right away, together with your supporting documentation. In the case of illness, please have a doctor complete a [Verification of Student Illness or Injury Form](#). For other emergencies, be prepared to provide some kind of documentation.

IMPORTANT: Notify me as soon as possible if you find yourself in such a situation. You can contact me even before you have the documentation; I won't be able to tell you at that point what accommodation you may receive, but can answer other questions and offer advice. It is always easier to resolve situations earlier rather than later.

Remark Requests

If you feel there was an error in the marking of an assignment or test, you may request that it be remarked. Print, fill out and submit a [Remark Request Form](#). You must give a specific reason for the request, referring to a possible error or omission by the marker.

For prompt turnaround, remark requests must be received within one week of when the item was returned.

Academic Integrity

The work you submit must be your own. It is an academic offence to copy someone else's work. This includes their code, their words,

and even their ideas. Whether you copy or let someone else copy, it is an offence. Academic offences are taken very seriously.

At the same time, I want you to benefit from working with other students. Obviously, work done with your partner is a joint effort. You are also welcome to work appropriately with students other than your partner. It is appropriate to discuss course material and technology related to assignments, and I encourage you to do so. For example, you may work through examples that help you understand course material or a new technology, or help each other configure your system to run a supporting piece of software. You may also discuss assignment requirements.

However, other than between partners, *collaboration on assignment solutions is strictly forbidden*. The most certain way to protect yourself is not to discuss assignment solutions or the ideas behind them with students other than your partner. Certainly you must not let others see your assignment solutions, even in draft form. Please don't cheat. I want you to succeed and am here to help if you are having difficulty.

Accessibility Needs

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit [Accessibility Services](#) as soon as possible.