

CSC148, Winter 2015

course information sheet

CSC148, “Introduction to Computer Science,” introduces you to how our discipline thinks in a systematic way about computing. Our hope is to provide you the basics for approaching program design principles such as encapsulation, modularity, and information-hiding, comparing different program implementations for efficiency, and building powerful data structures. Here’s a summary of the administrative details for Winter 2015. Please visit the course web page <http://www.cdf.toronto.edu/~csc148h/winter/> often, and read email sent to your U of T email for important announcements.

Contact: Each week, other than reading week (February 16th–20th), we’ll meet

Lecture 0101: Mondays and Wednesdays, 9–10 a.m., **WB116** (Wallberg Building), instructor Diane Horton

Lecture 0201: Mondays and Wednesdays, 10–11 a.m., **WB116** (Wallberg Building), instructor Danny Heap

Lecture 5101: Wednesdays, 6–8 p.m., **MS3153** (Medical Science Building), instructor Danny Heap

... for discussion and worked examples. If you have questions that aren’t answered in class, Danny’s office hours are in BA4270 Mondays and Wednesdays 11:30–1:30. Diane’s office hours are Mondays and Tuesdays, 3–4 p.m. in BA4236.

Textbook and computing: We’ll provide slides and links to readings online relevant to our weekly topics. By virtue of registering in this course, you will have a **CDF account**, and it is vitally important that you set it up so that you are able to log in. Your CDF account provides computing resources both remotely and within the Bahen building, and it allows you to submit course work.

Syllabus: We’ll discuss the following topics:

- modularity, encapsulation, information-hiding, object oriented design
- recursive data structures and recursive programming techniques
- traversal and mutation of linked data structures, including trees
- efficiency, profiling
- algorithms, sorting

Marking scheme: The marking scheme is designed to place a low weight (40%) on the final exam, since we believe this reduces a potential source of stress for students. In order to do this, we have to introduce frequent-but-smaller sources of stress: ten (nearly-weekly) labs, a course bLOG (SLOG), three assignments, and two term tests. These are timed, and weighted, as follows:

Work	Due	Weight
10 labs	every week except week 1 and week 12	10%
SLOG and three assignments	SLOG, week 3 – end of course A1, January 29th, 10 p.m. A2, March 5th, 10 p.m. A3, April 2nd, 10 p.m.	32%
two term tests	T1, February 4th, during lecture time T2, March 11th, during lecture time	18%
Final exam	some time in April	40%

Nuances: Everybody has better and worse days. We aim to give higher weight to your better work. For example, the weights of the assignments and SLOG sum to 32%, so we will give your best work on these three a weight of 10%, and your worst work a weight of 6%, with your middling work getting weights of 9% and 7%, respectively. Similarly, the term tests sum to 18%, so your best effort will have weight 10% and your lesser effort will have weight 6%, and there is 1% per test for completing a test-review exercise. The 40% weight of the final is, however, not changeable.

In addition to the other requirements, must you achieve 40% of the marks on the final exam in order to pass this course.

Re-marks: It is very important to us that your work is evaluated correctly, and that occasionally includes re-marking work to see whether we agree with the original grading. On the other hand, there are often urgent tasks during the semester that require our attention ahead of re-marks, for example preparing the next lecture, assignment, test...

Here is how we propose to balance importance and urgency. All re-mark requests must be submitted on MarkUs within 7 days of when the relevant work is handed back. We promise to consider the request before we submit grades at the end of the course.

Lateness, sickness, natural disasters: We discourage late work, since we have to arrange in advance for grading it, and because we want to be able to discuss solutions soon after the assignment is due, while it is still fresh in everyone's minds. Late assignments will be penalized at the rate of 5% per hour. If you have special circumstances that force you to miss a deadline, please contact us immediately (usually before the work is due) and fill out either the "Request for special consideration," or the standard medical excuse form (link on course web page) and provide all supporting documentation. We will do our best to ensure that your evaluation is not harmed by events that are not your fault.

Independent work: It is a serious academic offense to pass off somebody else's work as your own for credit. Be sure to give full and generous credit to any person or book (except course instructors and teaching assistants) you consult in solving assignments. If you take notes when you consult a source, quote that source in full.

If you intend to present work as your own, for credit, then you should not look at similar work by other students, in written or electronic form, since looking can easily turn into plagiarism. Don't show your own assignments to other students. Take a couple of hours' break after even verbal discussions of the assignment before writing it up.

Email, piazza: Course instructors receive thousands of emails per month, which makes it hard to ensure that each piece is followed up on promptly. You should use email to instructors sparingly.

Use piazza (see course web page) for questions and answers that don't reveal the details of assignments. Use MarkUs to request (non-test) re-marks and special consideration. Test re-marks need to be presented on paper (form on course web site), stapled to the test, to your instructor.

If you have a question that can't be raised on piazza and is suitable for email, be sure to include "CSC148," and something about your question, in the Subject: line.