CSC148: Introduction to Computer Science

Syllabus: Welcome to CSC148! In this course, you'll learn about important tools and ideas in computer science that will set the foundation for all future computer science courses you'll take. Among the most important topics we'll cover are object-oriented programming, data structures, and recursion. Throughout the course, we'll also emphasize the *good habits* essential to success in computer programming: designing before you code, testing beyond printing, and learning without teachers.

Webpage: `http://www.cs.toronto.edu/~liudavid/csc148/`

Instructor: David Liu [liudavid at cs dot toronto dot edu]

Office Hours: T3-5 (BA5256), F1-3 (BA3195), R3-4 (BA3289), or whenever I'm free, in my office **BA4260**

Prerequisites: CSC108 or equivalent programming experience. We'll be using Python in the course, but comfort with other imperative programming languages like Java or C should be fine. There will be a **ramp-up session** during the first week of class (see webpage for details).

Textbook: There is no required text. Lecture Notes will be available on the course webpage. These are an excellent resource, but are not a substitute for going to lecture. We might make occasional use of this free textbook: `http://openbookproject.net/thinkcs/python/english3e/`

Logistics: The course runs 13 weeks, from September 8 to December 4. There are two cancelled classes during the term: October 13 (Thanksgiving) and November 17 (Fall break).

Lectures: MW9-10 in LM159 (L0101) **or** MW10-11 in SF1101 (L0201)

Tutorials: R9-11 (T0101), R11-1 (T0201), **or** R7-9 (T5101)

Assessment: Term work will consist of regular exercises and labs, two major assignments, and one midterm. There will also be a final exam held in December.

Exercises and labs are meant to be "regular checkups" to help you keep up with the course; your lowest exercise and lab mark will each be **dropped**. Assignments span multiple topics and are more complex, and may be done in teams of three students. Remark requests must be submitted within **one week** of receiving feedback.

There are two possible grading schemes. Your final mark will be the *greater* of the two. However, **if you score below 40% on the final exam, your final mark will be be adjusted to below 50%**.

Item	**Date**	**Scheme 1**	**Scheme 2**
8 Exercises	Sundays	8% (1% ea.)	
11 Labs	Thursdays	11% (1% ea.)	5.5% (0.5% ea.)
Assignment 1	Oct 8, 6pm	10%	7.5%
Midterm 1	Oct 15 (60 min)	10%	8%
Midterm 2	Nov 12 (60 min)	10%	8%
Assignment 2	Nov 23, 9am	10%	7.5%
Final Exam	December (3 hr)	41%	55.5%

Forum: I'll be using https://piazza.com as the main mode of communicating with you (including any announcements). Please post all of your questions about the course material and assignments there so that everyone can benefit from your questions. I will monitor the forum regularly, but feel free to answer other students' questions too! Helping someone else learn is one of the most effective ways of truly mastering a subject.

Email: Please email me only for personal issues (making appointments, remarking requests, extensions, missing class, etc.). For all questions related to the course material, either come see me in person, or post them to the forum so that everyone can benefit from your questions.

Integrity: I take academic honesty very seriously, and so should you! Even the best of intentions can get you into trouble if you aren't careful. You should always feel free to seek help from your professor, TAs, and classmates when doing your assignments or understanding the course material in general. Collaboration is an important skill to have regardless of your intended career, which is why I encourage you to work on assignments and tutorial exercises in groups. However, as the instructor I need to be able to accurately determine how much you've learned in this course – and to do that, I need to see work that you yourself have honestly done! So collaborate, but please follow these guidelines to protect yourself from any accusations of wrong-doing.

(a) When posting about an assignment on the course forum, don't reveal entire or even partial solutions.

(b) When discussing assignments with your friends in person (which is encouraged!), don't bring in previously written notes, and don't leave the meeting with any written notes. If you can go away, let what you talked about marinate in your head, and then write down a complete solution, you've learnt it. Otherwise it's just memorization (and plagiarism).

(c) **Never show your written work to anyone else.** This is the hardest to avoid, but also the most likely to get both parties into trouble. Resist the temptation.

Petitions: The dates of all assessments in this course are posted on the Course Schedule. If you know you will be unable to complete an assignment or miss a midterm due to major illness or other circumstances completely outside of your control, please contact me immediately for special consideration. In the case of illness, medical documentation must be supplied on the standard University of Toronto form. A simple "note" from your doctor is unfortunately not acceptable.