

Administrative Information

csc343, Introduction to Databases
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UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

Admin Stuff

Important: Read the course syllabus

- Communication:
 - website: required reading
 - Piazza: our FAQs and pinned posts are required reading
 - your questions: to Piazza please
 - personal matters: email or visit me
- Office hours:
 - Please come: I love talking with students

Prerequisites

- For **A&S** students, the prerequisites are:
(1) CSC165/240 or MAT (135+136)/137/157 and
(2) CSC207.
- Email Professor Horton immediately if you don't have the prerequisites.
Include your unofficial transcript from Acorn.
- **Engineering** students, contact Professor Horton if you need any permission.

Active lectures

- Goal: get your gears turning in class.
- Activities like:
 - team problem solving, reviewing other students' solutions, and short quizzes.
- Weekly “lecture prep activities” will get you ready.
 - exercises, reading, watching videos
- All three hours will be here, with me.
- We probably won't use the “tutorial” time slot until next week.

Benefits of active learning

- Exercise your knowledge and skills in class, with support.
- We'll know where the difficulties are.
- Get more from when I'm lecturing.
- Boosts learning, and grades [1].

What it requires

- Doing the lecture prep.
- Being active in class, including working with others and looking at each other's solutions to problems.
- A positive, encouraging environment.

Notes

- We'll post the slides and code you see in lecture.
- But a great deal more happens in class.
- We strongly recommend taking notes.
- Try to synthesize and summarize, rather than transcribe verbatim.
- This boosts learning too [2].

Course Marking Scheme

Work	Weight	Comment
3 assignments	30%	10% each
weekly lecture prep	10%	1% each, due Sunday nights (except the midterm week)
midterm	15%	
Final exam	45%	You must earn at least 40% to pass the course

Recommended Resources

- Ullman and Widom,
“A First Course in Database Systems”,
third edition.
- Jennifer Widom’s online mini-courses
from Stanford.

Assignment Policies

- You may work with a partner on assignments.
- Can be from any section.
- Can change partners between assignments.
- You may not dissolve a partnership without permission.
- Assignments must be submitted via MarkUs.
- Your code must run on our lab computers.
- Late policy:
You have 6 grace tokens. Each can be used for a 2 hour extension with no penalty.

To-do list

- Anyone new to the CS Teaching Labs:
 - Your account name is your UTORid.
 - Check your email account declared on Acorn for a message with your password.
 - Try logging in.
- Read the course syllabus.
- Bookmark the course website.
- Do the class prep due Sunday night.

References

1. Active learning:
Freeman et al, “Active learning increases student performance in science, engineering, and mathematics.” PNAS 111 (23), 2014.
2. Taking notes:
Mueller et al, “The pen is mightier than the keyboard: Advantages of longhand over laptop note taking.” Psychological Science, 2014.