

Course Syllabus

Welcome to CSC324!

Logistics

Prerequisites

The study of programming languages is unique in that it blends the practical skill of translating a problem into a solution that a computer can run, with theoretical underpinnings and formalism from the mathematics community.

CSC263 or CSC265 is required for this course. Specifically, this translates to you needing to have:

- Familiarity with common data structures such as linked lists and trees;
- Competency in some prior programming language, such that you could implement one of the above data structures;
- Comfort with recursion, and understanding and writing proofs by induction.

In essence, if you're reasonably convinced that you could design a binary tree datatype and write a recursive function/method that traverses it, and explain in your own words why your solution is correct, you will be in good shape for this class.

Teaching staff.

I'm Nathan Taylor (nb dot taylor at utoronto dot ca).

My office hours are *Thursdays from 15:00-17:00 EDT*, through BB Collaborate.

Lectures and Labs

Lectures will be livestreamed over TODO on *Wednesdays and Fridays at 12:10-13:00 EDT*. Lectures will be recorded, but only posted well after the fact. I would encourage you whenever possible to attend virtual lectures "in person" and reserve using the recordings for review or in case of having missed the livestream.

The course lab section will be *Mondays at 12:10-13:00 EDT*. Labs are run as drop-in TA office hours, to be conducted over video conference.

Course work

Term work will consist of (mostly) weekly exercises and labs, and two major assignments.. There will also be two quizzes and a final assessment held during the exam period.

Exercises are meant to be regular checkups to help you keep up with the course. Each exercise consists of a few programming tasks which are evaluated just for correctness; your grade is based on the number of tests passed in our automated test suites.

Labs are your no-pressure opportunity to get hands-on experience both with material we cover in lecture and to learn new material, with an experienced TA to answer any questions you may have. While you are responsible for completing every lab, attendance is not required, and your lab work is not for credit. You are welcome to complete the labs on your own time (and on your own computer), and ask questions on the course forum or during office hours.

Assignments are more complex programming projects, and may be completed individually or in teams of two. They are your opportunity to take what we learn in lecture and apply it to a bigger scenario. Unlike exercises, you are marked not just for correctness, but also good design, code quality, and documentation.

The *quizzes* will test your comfort with the material in a format similar to a written test. It will be taken online during the scheduled lecture time.

The *final assessment* will take the place of a traditional exam at the end of the course. It will consist of a combination of long-form written answers and code-writing. The assessment will be released at the start of the assessment period and you may submit it at any point until the end of the term.

The quizzes and assessment will be "semi-open book": you may use a Racket, Haskell, or Python interpreter (REPL), as well as course notes and slides. Any other resource, online or otherwise, is strictly forbidden.

Item	Due date	Weight
10 Exercises	Thursdays before 18:00 EDT	30%
Assignment 1	26 June	15%
Assignment 2	8 August	15%
Quiz 1	8 June	10%
Quiz 2	10 August	10%
Final assessment	19-27 August	20%
		100%

Further Resources

There is no official course textbook; however, we will be using a set of [course notes](#).

We will also post some additional references as “extra readings” on the course webpage. These are optional unless otherwise specified.

We will be using a few different programming languages in this course. For more information about installation, language documentation and recommended guides, please see the [software webpage](#).

Course policies

Contact info

All announcements will be made on the course forum. You are responsible for reading all posts made by course staff.

Please post all of your questions about the course material and assignments there so that everyone can benefit from your questions. We 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.

For personal questions (making appointments, remarking requests, extensions, missing class, etc.), please email your instructor from your UofT email address. Please include "CSC324" in the subject line, and your full name and UTORid in the body of the email. Otherwise, your message might be marked as spam!

We will try to respond to email and discussion board posts 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, we are always available during office hours to help.

Assignment policies

Assignments must be submitted electronically, using the MarkUs online system. 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 us must work on the departmental teaching lab machines in order to earn credit, as we will be testing your code on this environment.

Working with a partner

All weekly exercises, quizzes, and the final assessment must be done individually. For the two major assignments, you have the option of partnering with one other CSC324 student, and we encourage you to do so. You may choose your own partner, 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 our permission. Both partners will receive the same mark for joint assignments.

If you choose to work with a partner for an assignment, you must form a group on MarkUs. You should declare a partnership well before the deadline (there is no downside of doing so). Ask your instructor for help if you're having trouble forming a group.

Working with a partner has the potential to lighten your workload or to increase it, depending on how well 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.

Late assignments

MarkUs is known to be slow when many students try to submit right before a deadline. Aim to submit your work at least one hour before the deadline. You can submit your work more than once—only the last version submitted before the deadline will be graded.

We recognize that unexpected problems sometimes make it difficult to submit work on time. For this reason, we will be using grace tokens to give you flexibility with exercise and assignment deadlines.

Each student will receive six grace tokens; each grace token can be used for a two-hour extension for an exercise or 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 one token each on six different exercises, extending each deadline by two 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, just submit your work within the grace token two-hour periods. 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.

Special consideration

The CSC324 team is conscious of the unique situation that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed the University, our broader communities, and the world as a whole.

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 us immediately if you want to receive special consideration.

In order to request special consideration, please contact your instructor right away. Include your full name, student number, and UTORid in your request, and supporting documentation for your request. 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 us as soon as possible if you find yourself in such a situation. You can contact us even before you have the documentation; we 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

First, asking for more feedback is strongly encouraged, and may be done at any point in the term. While your TAs strive to give good feedback, this is not always enough to really understand what you did well, and what you need to improve. Your instructors are happy to book an appointment to go over your work.

If you feel there is a problem with the marking of an assignment or test, you may request that it be remarked. To do so, please send your instructor an email with "Remark Request" contained in the subject line, along with the details of your request. You must give a specific reason, referring to a possible error or omission by the marker. Requests that simply ask for more marks without giving a reason are not considered.

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

The sad fact is that human marking is always somewhat subjective. Yes, sometimes markers are harsh; but they are often generous as well. You're welcome to make your case in a remark request, but you should know that when we remark an assessment, we look at all of the work, not just the particular issues you bring up. This means that your mark might go up, down, or stay the same.

The only guarantee, of course, is that you'll get better feedback from us.

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, we 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 we 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 exercise and assignment solutions is strictly forbidden. The most certain way to protect yourself is not to discuss solutions or the ideas behind them with students other than your partner. Certainly you must not let others see your solutions, even in draft form. Please don't cheat. We want you to succeed and are 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.

Last updated on Mon Aug 17 20:12:34 2020.