

# CSC236 (Intro to the Theory of Computation) Summer 2017

**Instructor:** Prof. Alex Palioudakis

email: alex.palioudakis@mail.utoronto.ca

Office hours - Fridays 2:00–4:00 in BA 3219

**Lectures:** Our meetings are:

**L5101:** Wednesdays 6:10–8:00, BA 1180. Tutorial Wednesdays 8:10–9:00, rooms BA 1180, BA 1230, and BA1240.

**Website:** Please check often the web page of the course at:

<http://www.cdf.toronto.edu/~csc236h/summer/index.shtml>.

**Textbook:** The text for this course is *CSC 236/240/B36 Introduction to the Theory of Computation*, by Vassos Hadzilacos, available at <http://www.cs.toronto.edu/~vassos/b36-notes/>.

**Syllabus:** In this course, we learn to apply rigour and proof to some fundamental tasks of computing. We will discuss the following topics:

- Induction: definitions, examples, pitfalls
- Recurrences and recursive complexity
- Program correctness, recursive and iterative
- Formal languages

**Marking scheme:** Course work consists of eleven quizzes, three assignments, one midterm, and a final exam.

Quizzes and tests take place during tutorial time.

Item	Due	Weight
Assignment #1	Thursday, June 8th, 6 p.m.	27% (9% each)
Assignment #2	Thursday, July 13th, 6 p.m.	
Assignment #3	Thursday, August 10th, 6 p.m.	
Quizzes	Your lowest quiz score will be dropped. The remaining 10 quizzes will be worth 2% each.	20% total
Midterm	TBA (during June 26-30)	18%
Final exam	Date TBA You must achieve at least 40% on the exam to pass the course. Otherwise, your mark will be no higher than 47%.	35%

**Assignment Policies:** Assignments may be done in groups of up to three students, and will be submitted electronically on MarkUs. There will be a 5%-per-hour late penalty for assignments starting after the first hour. Otherwise, late work cannot be accepted.

**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 submit two things:

- (1) Request for Special Consideration Form

(2) Documentation for this request. In the case of illness, please have a doctor complete a Verification of Student Illness or Injury Form. For other emergencies, provide some other form of official 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.

**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.

You may not let others see your assignment solutions, even in draft form. Please don't cheat. We want you to succeed and are here to help if you are having difficulty.

**Piazza:** All announcements will be made on Piazza. Posts by course staff are considered required reading.

Please post all of your questions about the course material and assignments on Piazza 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. Remember to keep discussion at a high level, and do not post assignment solutions.

**Email:** Please use email for personal matters only. Questions that may be of general interest should be shared on the discussion forum. Email should be sent from a [utoronto.ca](mailto:utoronto.ca) address, and include "CSC236" somewhere in the subject line. I will try to reply to emails within two business days, although it may take longer during busy times.

**Re-marks:** If an error is made in the marking of a piece of coursework, you may request a remark of that work. Remark requests must be made within two weeks of after receiving the marked coursework. Such a request entails a remarking of the work. Hence, if a remarking is granted, the student must accept the resulting mark as the new mark, whether it goes up or down or remains the same. Any change in grade will be incorporated by the time final grades are submitted to Arts and Science.

**Accessibility:** Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or Accessibility Services at (416) 978 8060; [accessibility.utoronto.ca](mailto:accessibility.utoronto.ca).