CSC148, Winter 2018
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. Below we summarize the administrative details for Winter 2018. Please visit the course web page http://www.teach.cs.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, Wednesday, Fridays, 10–11 a.m., MP102. Instructor: Danny Heap. Office hour: MTR: 3–5 p.m., BA2230.

Lecture 0201: Mondays, Wednesday, Fridays, 11 a.m.–noon, MP102. Instructor: Danny Heap. Office hour: MTR: 3–5 p.m., BA2230.

Lecture 0301: Mondays, Wednesday, Fridays, 2–3 p.m., MP202. Instructor: AbdulAziz Al-Helali. Office hour: T: 3–5 p.m., BA2230.

Lecture 0401: Mondays, Wednesday, Fridays, 3–4 p.m., MP202. Instructor: Arnamoy Bhattacharyya. Office hour: Monday 11-1, BA3129.

Lecture 5101: Wednesday, 6–9 p.m., MP202. Instructor: Danny Heap. Office hour: MTR: 3–5 p.m., BA2230.

. . . for discussion and worked examples.

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 Teaching Labs account, and it is vitally important that you set it up so that you are able to log in. Your Teaching Labs 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, Abstract Data Types
- recursive data structures and recursive programming techniques
- traversal and mutation of linked data structures, including trees
- efficiency
- algorithms, sorting

Marking scheme: The marking scheme is designed to place a relatively low weight (38%) on the final exam, since we believe this reduces a potential source of stress. In order to do this, we have to introduce frequent-but-smaller sources of stress: eight (nearly-weekly) labs, two assignments, two face-to-face demos, and two term tests. These are timed, and weighted, as follows:

Work	Due	Weight
8 labs/exercises	every week except weeks 1, 5, 9 and 11	16%
two assignments	A1, January 30th, 10 p.m. A2, March 6th, 10 p.m.	10%
two face-to-face demos	February 1–2, during lab March 8–9, during lab	12%
two term tests	T1, February 7th, during lecture time T2, March 14th, during lecture time	24%
Final exam	some time in April	38%

Nuances: Everybody has better and worse days. We aim to give higher weight to your better work. For example, the weights of your two assignments sum to 10%, so we'll give the best one a weight of 6% and the worst a weight of 4%. Similarly, the face-to-face demos sum to 12%, so we'll give the best a weight of 8% and the worst a weight of 4%. Similarly, the term tests sum to 24%, so your best effort will have weight 16% and your lesser effort will have weight 8%. The labs sum to 16%, so your best 2 labs will have weight 3% each, your next best 4 labs will have weight 2% each, and your worst 2 labs will have weight 1% each. The 38% 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, but we cannot guarantee earlier than that.

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 the "Request for special consideration," 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.

You may use piazza (see course web page) for questions and answers that don't reveal the details of assignments. You may use piazza in "demo" mode if you do not wish them to have access to your email. Use MarkUs to request re-marks.

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.