Administrative Information

csc343, Introduction to Databases
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Winter 2018
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
  - no uncivil posts, 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 Miller (miller@cs.toronto.edu) immediately if you don’t have the prerequisites. Include your unofficial transcript from Acorn.
- Engineering students, contact your undergrad office to see 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
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].

- To understand the material in depth, plan to buy and read the textbook.
## Course Marking Scheme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 assignments</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>10% each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>weekly lecture prep</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>due Monday mornings 8am (most weeks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>midterm</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>You must earn at least 50% to pass the course</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Recommended Resources

- 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.
- Both partners get the same mark.
- You may not dissolve a partnership without permission.
- Must declare partnership on MarkUs.
- 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: www.teach.cs.toronto.edu/~csc343h/winter
- Do the class prep due Monday night. (It will be posted on Wed.)
References
