CSC236, Fall 2012
courSe LOG (SLOG)

You will keep a log of your participation in this course. This is the place to record milestones you have achieved in the course, things you find difficult (and what steps you've taken to overcome the difficulty), your reaction to concepts presented in course material, and anything else you decide is relevant to your experience of the course. Keeping records is a skill you'll use in various forms in your life as a computer scientist, and this semester you'll keep the record publicly. SLOGs even have their own song.

There are three distinct audiences for your journal, with three distinct viewpoints (just to make things interesting). First, teaching staff (the instructor or TAs) will be reading your journal, making comments where appropriate, and assigning a grade for your journal at the end of the term. Second, your peers in this course will read your journal, and compare your experience to theirs (and this should prevent you from being too fawning toward the teaching staff). Third, you'll re-read your journal at various points, to get an impression of how your experience of the course changes (or doesn't) over the semester.

Here's what I'm looking for in journals:

- Entries should be organized by topic. You should write frequently (weekly).

- Your entries should record not only your subjective reaction to course events, but steps you take to deal with your reaction. For example, if you are finding some course material difficult, what do you plan to do to make it easier. If you're finding material tedious, what can be done about that?

- Pay attention to sentence structure, spelling, and clarity. Don't expect your audience to read "leet", even if that's what you use for other written communication.

- Respond in a productive, respectful way to reader's questions and comments.

- Write up at least one problem-solving episode (for a problem of a mathematical nature), using the approach suggested by Polya and others. . . . for suggestions on how to approach (and record your approach) to a mathematical problem, use my problem-solving wiki (userid: sleuth, passwd eureka).

Create your SLOG on blogger, or any other blogging site that allows comments from readers. The link to your blog will be posted for the class.

Don't reveal personal information in your SLOGs or profile that you aren't comfortable sharing with **the world**. Remember, facts such as your name, age, gender, and address can be used for identity theft. In addition, if the server for the SLOG is located in the U.S., you may assume that Homeland Security might scan your opinions on induction, recursion, and whatever else you post.

In order to get credit for your SLOG, you must send mail from either your CDF account or your utoronto.ca account to csc236f12slog@cs.toronto.edu with the URL for your SLOG in the subject line, and your tutorial section. For example:

Section 3: http://http://dannystheory.blogspot.ca/

This will be posted for your peers in the course to read. To get credit for frequent posting, you must mail the URL by October 8th, 2012. As part of a university-wide campaign against hypocrisy, I can't ask you to keep a SLOG without keeping one myself.