CSC236 Fall 2012
Course information sheet

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Here's a summary of the administrative details of CSC236, "Introduction to the theory of computation," for Fall 2012. In this course we learn to apply rigour and proof to fundamental tasks of computing. Please check the web page at `http://www.cdf.toronto.edu/~heap/236/F12/` often.

Course calendar Important events in the life of our course will be recorded on the course calendar, part of the course web page.

Lectures: Our meetings are:

Lecture section L0101: Wednesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m. in LM162 (Lash Miller room 162). There will also be tutorials on Mondays at 11 a.m., and I will post rooms. No tutorial the first two weeks, until September 24th.

Lecture section L5101: Thursdays 6–8 p.m. in BA1190 (Bahen room 1190). There will be tutorials from 8–9 p.m., and I will post rooms. No tutorial the first two weeks, until September 27th.

Lecture material will be interspersed with tutorial-like exercises. Although I'll often post slides in advance, you'll probably need to annotate these for them to be useful.

I can be reached in person at BA4270, during lectures, asynchronously at `heap@cs.toronto.edu`, and occasionally at 416-978-5899.

I will also answer some questions, and (occasionally) provide hints on piazza.

Office hours: My office hours will be Mondays 2–4, following lecture, Thursdays 3–4 p.m., or by appointment.

Textbook: The text for this course is *CSC 236/240/B36 Introduction to the Theory of Computation*, by Vassos Hadzilacos, available at no charge at `http://www.cs.toronto.edu/~vassos/b36-notes/`.

Syllabus: We will discuss the following topics:

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

Marking scheme: The final exam is worth 35%. In order to have such a (relatively) low weight on the exam, I spread the other 65% over many smaller pieces of course work. Course work consists of eight quizzes (during tutorials), three assignments, two tests (also tutorial), and one courSe bLOG (SLOG).

Item	Due	Weight
Assignment #1 Assignment #2 Assignment #3 SLOG (courSe LOG)	Friday October 5th, 11:59 p.m. Friday November 2nd, 11:59 p.m. Friday November 30th, 11:59 p.m. December 5th	30% (in total)
Quizzes	**Day section (Wednesday)** September 24th October 1st, 15th, 22nd, and 29th November 19th, and 26th December 3rd **Evening section (Thursday)** September 27th October 4th, 18th, and 25th November 1st, 15th, 22nd, and 29th Quizzes are brief, and take place during tutorial	15% (in total)
Term test #1 Term test #2	Wednesday October 10th, 11:10–12:00 noon Thursday October 11th, 6:10–7:00 pm Monday November 5th, 11:10–12:00 noon Thursday November 8th, 6:10–7:00 pm	20% (in total)
Final exam	Some time in December	35%

Nuances: Each of us has better or worse days, and (through the magic of computers) I will weight your grades to reflect this. The three assignments and SLOG are worth, collectively, 30%, so I will weight your best piece 9%, your worst piece 6%, and your two middling pieces 7% and 8%, respectively. Your best term test will have weight 12% and your worst 8%. If your quiz performance (in total) is better than your test performance, their weights will be switched, so the nine quizzes will have a collective weight of 20%, and the two tests will have a collective weight of 15%. No modification of the exam weight is possible: it will be 35% of your final grade, and you must achieve at least 40% of the possible marks on the exam in order to pass this course.

Lateness, sickness, natural disasters: I cannot accept late work, since I have to arrange for it to be graded. If you have special circumstances that force you to miss a deadline, please contact me immediately (usually before the work is due) and fill out either the "Request for special consideration," or the standard medical excuse form, (both forms are available on the web page) and provide all supporting documentation. I will do my best to ensure that there is no penalty for a deadline missed for a valid reason.

Academic integrity: This university is a community of scholars, where ideas are shared in a fair and respectful way. In order to make this feasible, you need to be sure that proper credit is given to the source of ideas when they are re-used.

Passing off somebody else's work as your own for credit is a serious academic offense, can have serious academic consequences, and is also beneath your dignity. Be sure to give full and generous credit to any person, book, or electronic source (except the course notes, instructor, and teaching assistants) you consult in solving your assignments. If you take notes when you consult any source, then you must indicate that you are quoting that source. Type up your assignments on your own, leaving at least an hour of mind-altering activity (for example, TV, shopping, or video games) after consulting others and before beginning your assignment. Don't show your work (on paper or electronically) to other students, and don't look at other students' work.