Welcome to CSC148!

CSC148, INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE
DAVID LIU
Get to know each other!

What’s your name?

What other courses are you taking this semester?

What did you do this summer?

What are you most excited about this year?
Who is David? (Yes, call me David)
What is CSC148 about?

By the end of this course, students will:

• read and understand problem specifications,
• design and implement solutions to those problems,
• and evaluate their solutions for correctness, clarity, and efficiency,

doing all of these things like a computer scientist.
What is CSC148 about?

Object-oriented design
Thinking recursively
Data structures
Program efficiency
Theme: Abstraction
Theme: Professional practices
Course website

https://www.teach.cs.toronto.edu/~csc148h/fall/
Preparation for CSC148

A recent credit in CSC108 is ideal prep for 148, but substantial prior programming experience (e.g., high school classes or work experience) is often an adequate substitute.

Check course syllabus for links to resources and advice!

A ramp-up session this Sunday can help you with Python, if you have experience in another programming language.
A typical week in CSC148

This year, we’re piloting a semi-inverted model for CSC148. Each week, you’ll have:

- *Prep* readings and comprehension exercises
- 3 *lecture hours* blending mini-lectures and active learning
- 2 *lab hours* with larger programming tasks in a smaller group
Preps

Weekly prep readings are where you’ll learn most of the content of CSC148.

Readings are accompanied by two kinds of comprehension exercises:
  ◦ Short-answer questions (Quercus)
  ◦ Programming tasks (MarkUs)
Lectures

Lectures are designed to promote active engagement with course content.

You’ll succeed by:

◦ Completing preps before lecture
◦ Solving problems in small groups
◦ Asking and answering questions
Labs

Labs are designed to provide larger technical programming tasks and practice quizzes under the guidance of a TA.

You’ll succeed by:

◦ Working with a partner to bounce ideas around
◦ Taking an active role in completing lab exercises
◦ Asking questions to each other and your TA
Notes about lab logistics

You must sign up for a **CSC148 TUT** section on ACORN separately (**not** the same as CSC148 LEC).

Labs begin next Thursday!

We’ll post room assignments on the course website early next week.
## Course assessments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 labs</td>
<td>5% (0.5 each)</td>
<td>Grade is based on attendance and participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 preps</td>
<td>9% (1% each)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 assignments</td>
<td>24% (12% each)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>In-class, Tuesday October 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>You must score at least 40% on the exam to pass the course.</td>
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Assignments

Each CSC148 assignment is your opportunity to synthesize several course concepts into a fun and complex project.

Some details:

◦ Start early!
◦ You can work individually or with a partner.
◦ Often the most challenging part of the course.
◦ Start early!!!
Midterm and final exams

Exams will be on paper, and are largely based on skills and concepts, not simple facts.

*Cramming and memorization are not good strategies for this course.*

Instead, focus on learning and reviewing steadily each week, and you’ll find you don’t need to “study” nearly as much.
Academic integrity

The work you submit must be your own.

Your work must not be submitted by anyone else.

Academic offences are taken very seriously.
Academic integrity

**Do** discuss course concepts, what an assignment is asking, high-level ideas about the solution.

**Don’t** show anyone your code (including rough work).

**Don’t** copy code from *any* source.
A word about the Internet

While this course is self-contained, you may find it useful to use the Internet to look up:

- Alternate presentation of course concepts (e.g., recursion)
- Programming language documentation (docs.python.org)

But *don’t* do any of the following:

- Copy code you find online
- Ask “How do I write this function...”
- Pay someone to complete your work for you
Get to know each other!

How would you combine computer science with another one of your interests, areas of study, or passions?
FIRST-YEAR ORIENTATION

Welcome to your first-year at U of T!

Join us to meet with faculty and students in computer science, where we will answer frequently asked questions about CS courses and programs. Learn about opportunities to take your undergrad experience up a notch by getting involved in clubs, hackathons, research and more.

Tuesday, September 11, 2018
Bahen Centre, Room 3200
2 PM to 4 PM
“American culture in particular has instilled in us the bizarre notion that to ask for help amounts to an admission of failure. But some of the most powerful, successful, admired people in the world seem, to me, to have something in common: they ask constantly, creatively, compassionately, and gracefully.
Getting help: please don’t be shy!

David’s office hours
  ◦ 1:30-3:00pm, Mon/Fri
  ◦ 2:30-4:00pm, Wed

CS Help Centre hours
  ◦ 2:00-6:00pm, every day

All office hours are in BA2230.
David, alone in office hours
Getting help: please don’t be shy!

Online course forum (Piazza)
- A good place to ask *and answer* questions
- Monitored regularly by course staff

Individual appointments
- By request – email the course address, and please include the purpose of the request and some times you’re available
- (these are generally reserved for special circumstances)
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT
Tips for success in CSC148

- Prepare for, attend, and actively work in lectures and labs
- Start assignments early. Time-on-task isn’t enough. You need *elapsed time* to:
  - let ideas percolate
  - get answers to questions that crop up
- Don’t spin your wheels. Come talk to us!
- Practice, practice, practice. You are learning *ways of thinking* and *new skills*, and mastery of these will only come with lots of practice.
Homework

- Visit and bookmark the course website: [https://www.teach.cs.toronto.edu/~csc148h/fall/](https://www.teach.cs.toronto.edu/~csc148h/fall/)
- Review the course syllabus and other course policies (online)
- If you need to, attend Sunday’s Ramp-Up Session
- Complete the CSC148 Software Guide (see course website)

- **Complete the Week 1 prep!** (unmarked, but still do it!!)