

CSC148, Fall 2013

course information sheet

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CSC148, “Introduction to Computer Science,” introduces you to how our discipline thinks in an organized 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. Here’s a summary of the administrative details for Fall 2013. Please visit the course web page <http://www.cdf.toronto.edu/~heap/148/F13/> often, and read email sent to your U of T email for important announcements.

Contact: I’ll meet you each Monday and Wednesday¹ at either 9:10–10 a.m., or 10:10–11 a.m., depending on your section, in **BA1180 (Bahen Centre, room BA1180)** for discussion and worked examples. If you have questions that aren’t answered in class, I’ll be available for office hours Mondays and Wednesdays 11–noon, and Thursdays 1–2, in BA4270

Textbook and computing: I will provide slides and links to readings online relevant to our weekly topics. By virtue of registering in this course, you will have a CDF account, and it is vitally important that you set it up so that you are able to log in. Your CDF 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
- recursive data structures and recursive programming techniques
- traversal and mutation of linked data structures, including trees
- efficiency, profiling
- algorithms, sorting

Marking scheme: The marking scheme is designed to place a low weight (40%) on the final exam, since I believe this reduces a potential source of stress for students. In order to do this, I have to introduce frequent-but-smaller sources of stress: ten (nearly-weekly) labs, six exercises, a course bLOG (SLOG), two assignments, two term tests. These are timed, and weighted, as follows:

¹Except Thanksgiving and November 11th

Work	Due	Weight
10 labs	every week except week 1 and week 10	10%
SLOG and two assignments	SLOG, week 3 – end of course A1, October 8th, 11:59 p.m. A2, November 5th, 11:59 p.m.	24%
six exercises	September 20th, 27th, 11:59 p.m. October 4th, 18th, 25th, 11:59 p.m. November 1st 11:59 p.m.	10%
two term tests	T1, October 16th, 9–10 or 10–11 T2, November 13th, 9–10 or 10–11 a.m.	16%
Final exam	some time during exam period	40%

Nuances: Everybody has better and worse days. I aim to give higher weight to your better work. For example, the weights of the assignments and SLOG sum to 24%, so I will give your best work on these three a weight of 10%, and your worst work a weight of 6%, with the remaining piece getting 8%. Similarly, the term tests sum to 16%, so your best effort will have weight 10% and your lesser effort will have weight 6%. After you have completed the 5th lab, you may choose to replace the remaining 5 labs shifting those marks to your term tests (which become worth 21% in that case). The 40% weight of the final is, however, not changeable.

Lateness, sickness, natural disasters: I don't accept late work, since I have to arrange in advance for grading it. However, 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 (link on this web page) and provide all supporting documentation. I will do my best to ensure there is no penalty for a deadline missed for a valid reason.

Independent work: It is a serious academic offense to pass of somebody else's work as your own for credit. Be sure to give full and generous credit to any person or book (except this course's instructor 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 showing your own assignments to other students. Take a couple of hours' break after even verbal discussions of the assignment before writing it up.