

# CSC148, Winter 2016

## courSe LOG (SLOG)

You will record and reflect on your participation in this course by creating an online courSe LOG (SLOG). 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, for example keeping track of the existence and actions taken toward fixing bugs/features. SLOGs even have *their own song*. This semester you'll keep the record *publicly*, meaning that your SLOG will be readable by your peers in this class and the entire web. Thus, you should be careful (see below) about revealing any identifying information about yourself.

Consider three distinct audiences for your SLOG, with three distinct viewpoints (just to make things interesting). First, teaching staff (the instructor or TAs) will be reading your SLOG, making comments where appropriate, and assigning a grade for your SLOG at the end of the term. Second, your peers in this course will read your SLOG, 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 SLOG at various points, to get an impression of how your experience of the course changes (or doesn't) over the semester.

### SLOGs Requirements:

- By week 3 you will have begun your SLOG and have posted a brief paragraph (or so) on your initial impression of course topics and detail your goals in writing your SLOG. You will pass a paper copy of what you've posted for week 3 to your lab TA for grading (this is worth 1% of your final grade).
- During week 7 you will post 1–3 paragraphs on one of: Recursion, Object-Oriented Programming, or Abstract Data Types. You will also pass a paper copy of what you've posted for week 7 to your lab TA for grading (this is worth 2% of your final grade).
- During week 11 you will revisit one of your earlier SLOG entries and write about whether your views have changed or developed in some way. You will also pass a paper copy of your week 11 posting to your lab TA. This, along with your weekly postings, is worth 3% of your final grade.
- During weeks 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 12 you'll make brief but frequent (weekly) posts on course topics. These should be organized by date, and where suitable, by topic.
- 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.

In order to get **full credit for your SLOG**, you must *submit your SLOG URL and your CDF userid* by the third week of the course, and also submit paper copies of your submissions for weeks 3, 7, and 11 to your lab TA.

Create your SLOG on [tumblr](#), [blogger](#), or any other blogging site that allows feedback (“likes” or comments). The link to your blog will be posted for the class. You may want to look at some [instructions on setting up a blog](#) if you’re new to this. By following your lab TA (and the [writing TA](#)) on tumblr, you can connect with others in your lab section and get writing tips.

**Don’t reveal personal information** in your SLOGs or profile that you aren’t comfortable sharing with **the world**. Don’t tolerate, or participate in, discussion or comments that are disrespectful of you or your peers. 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 abstract data structures, recursion, and whatever else you post.

If you’re **suffering from “blogger’s block,”** here are some standard questions you might consider:

- what’s something new you learned this week in class?
- what’s something you enjoyed this week in class?
- what’s something that challenged or frustrated you this week?
- how confident do you feel about material covered this week?
- how does course material relate to other classes or interests?
- what was one of your achievements this week
- how did your tutorial/test/assignment go this week?
- ask, and then answer, some question you had about course content.