

# CSC165, Fall 2014

## 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** — they're better than bad, they're good.

There are 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 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 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.

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

- Entries should be organized by topic. You should write frequently (weekly). 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?
- 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, and include links to other SLOGs that you find interesting.
- 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. You may want to look at some [instructions on setting up a blog](#) if you're new to this.

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 logic, implication, and whatever else you post.

In order to get full credit for your SLOG, you must submit a plain text file (one typed with Wing will work) called `slogURL.txt`, containing the link to your SLOG, on [MarkUs](#) by 10 p.m., September 19th, 2014. Your TA will be able to read and comment on your SLOG throughout the course. Your SLOG URL will also be posted for your peers in the course to read.