

csc236 fall 2018

course information sheet

Here's a summary of the administrative details of CSC236, "Introduction to the theory of computation," for Fall 2018. In this course we learn to apply rigour and proof to some fundamental tasks of computing. Please check our web page at <http://www.teach.cs.toronto.edu/~heap/236/F18/> often. Please note that the weeks on the web page's calendar run from Thursday through to the following Wednesday, to reflect UofT's academic weeks...

contact:

administration: csc236-2018-09@cs.toronto.edu

concepts: heap@cs.toronto.edu

face-to-face: BA4270

Lectures:

L0101: Mondays and Wednesdays 11:10–12:00, **LM 161**. Office hours MW 2:30–4:30 in BA2230, F 1:30–3:30 BA2230.

L0201: Mondays and Wednesdays 11:10–12:00, **LM 161**. Office hours MW 2:30–4:30 in BA2230, F 1:30–3:30 BA2230.

L5101: Thursdays 6:10–8:00 p.m., **SF 1101**. Office hours MW 2:30–4:30 in BA2230, F 1:30–3:30 BA2230.

Lecture material will combine presentation of concepts with examples. If slides are posted in advance, you are expected to add value by annotating them in class.

piazza: discuss course topics, lecture, tutorial, and extra exercises, but **not** assignment solutions.

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 recursive complexity
- Program correctness, recursive and iterative
- Formal languages

Marking scheme: The final exam is worth 37%. In order to have such a (relatively) low weight on the exam, we spread the other 63% over several smaller pieces of course work. Course work consists of nine quizzes (at end of tutorials), three assignments, two tests (during Thursday first lecture hour, or Friday tutorial time), and a peer-instruction bonus.

item	due	weight
assignment #1 assignment #2 assignment #3	Friday September 28th, 3 p.m. Friday November 2nd, 3 p.m. Friday November 30th, 3 p.m.	(in total) 21%
nine quizzes	evening section (Thursday) September 13th, 20th, 27th October 11th, 18th, 25th November 1st, 22nd, 29th day sections (Friday) September 14th, 21st, 28th October 12th, 19th, 26th November 2nd, 23rd, 30th quizzes are brief, and take place during tutorial	(in total) 18%
term test #1 term test #2	Thursday October 4th / Friday October 5th Thursday November 15th / Friday November 16th	(in total) 24%
interaction and peer instruction	TBA	(bonus) 3%
final exam	Some time in December	37%

Nuances: Each of us has better or worse days, and (through the magic of computers) we will weight your grades to reflect this. The three assignments are worth, collectively, 21%, so we will weight your best piece 10%, your worst piece 4%, and your middling piece 7%. Your best term test will have weight 16% and your worst 8%. Your best 3 quizzes will have a weight of 3% each, your next 3 best will have a weight of 2% each, whereas your worst 3 will have a weight of 1% each. No modification of the exam weight is possible: it will be 37% 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: There will be a 5%-per-hour late penalty for assignments, otherwise we can't accept late work. If you have special circumstances that force you to miss a deadline, please contact your instructor immediately (usually before the work is due) and fill out the "Request for special consideration," (on the web page) and provide all supporting documentation. We will do our 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 we share ideas in a fair and respectful way. In order to make such sharing 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 offence, can have serious 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, fake news, 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.

email: Instructors receive thousands of emails per course. The result is that we may well respond several days later than mail is sent. You should consider whether you are raising a matter of general interest

that might better be shared on Piazza. In any case, your email should be sent from a utoronto.ca address, and include “CSC236” somewhere in the subject line.

re-marks: It is extremely important to us that we give correct evaluation of each piece of work. You will have opportunity on MarkUs to request that we review any piece of term work (except peer instruction activity) with fresh eyes. The result may be that the mark goes down, up, or stays the same, depending on what we see when we reconsider it. Any change in grade will be incorporated by the time we submit final grades to Arts and Science at the end of the course.