CSC300, Winter 2008
Course information sheet

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Here's a summary of the administrative details of CSC300, "Computers and society," for Winter 2008. Please check the course web page (below) often.

COURSE WEB PAGE: See http://www.cdf.toronto.edu/~heap/300/W08/ for ongoing course information. You are responsible for announcements posted here, and you should check weekly.

LECTURES: Lectures are Mondays from 2–4 pm in SS2106 ("SS" for Sidney Smith). I can be reached in person in BA4270, in SS2106 during lectures, asynchronously at heap@cs.toronto.edu, or occasionally at 416-978-5899.

If you've got questions that aren't answered in class, come to office hours, Tuesdays from 1–2 in BA4270, or simply hang around after lecture is finished. You may also question and revise lecture material on-line by clicking on "Lectures" on the course web page.

TUTORIALS: There will be six office hours with TAs to discuss the requirements of assignments. For details see the on-line course calendar http://www.cdf.toronto.edu/~heap/300/W08/calendar.shtml

TEXTBOOK AND COMPUTING: There is no required text for this course. I will be posting references and lecture materials on-line. Each student enrolled in the course will have an account at cdf.toronto.edu, so that you can experiment with software and send and receive mail there. Unless otherwise specified, written work that is submitted electronically must be a valid html file that is properly rendered by Firefox on CDF machines.

SYLLABUS: We will discuss the following topics:

- Background: ethics, professionalism, history
- Privacy
- Computers and work
- The net
- Trust in cyberspace
- Computers and development

MARKING SCHEME: There are no term tests, and the final exam has a weight of 40%. In order to keep the stress associated with a relatively brief (3 hour) exam as low as possible, I need to spread the evaluation of your term work over several (six) pieces of work. In the marking scheme below, most items are worth 8–12% of your final mark, depending on how well you do. The procedure will be to sort six pieces of term work, and your best effort is marked out of 12%, your next best out of 11%, the next two best out of 10%, the next best out of 9%, and the next best out of 8%. You must receive at least 40% on the final exam to pass this course.

Item	Due	Worth
Scholarly script plan	January 29th, 11:59 pm	8%–12%
Wikipedia entry	February 12th, 11:59 pm	8%–12%
On-line debate	March 5th and 6th	8%–12%
Screencast	March 18th, 11:59 pm	8%–12%
CS in the news	April 1st, 11:59 pm	8%–12%
Scholarly script	April 8th, 11:59 pm	8%–12%
Exam	During exam period	40%

The details of what is required for each piece of term work will be posted at least two weeks before the relevant due date at http://www.cdf.toronto.edu/~heap/300/W08/assignments.shtml

LATENESS, SICKNESS, NATURAL DISASTERS: Late work cannot be accepted, since I'd like to return your work promptly rather than wait for (and penalize) late work. 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, (both forms are available on the wiki) and provide all supporting documentation. Although I won't accept late work, I will do my best to ensure that there is no penalty for a deadline missed for a valid reason.

INDEPENDENT WORK: Passing off somebody else's work as your own for credit is a serious academic offense, and it can have serious academic consequences. Be sure to give full and generous credit to any person or book (except the instructor) you consult in solving your assignments. If you take notes when you consult a source, then you should quote that source in full.

If you intend to present work as your own, for credit, then you should avoid looking at similar work by other students, in either written or electronic form, since looking can easily turn into plagiarism. Avoid showing your own assignments to other students.