CSC343 Syllabus, Winter 2017

Logistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Diane Horton: dianeh at cs dot utoronto dot ca</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lectures¹</td>
<td>L0101/L2001  L0201/L2201  L5101/L2501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M2 (BA 1130), W2 (MC 102), T6-9 (BA 1130))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MWF12 (SS 2117) F2 (SS 2118)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Hours</td>
<td>MTWF 3:30-4:30 (BA4236), or by appointment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹All three hours of class are required, and will be used for active-learning lectures.

Communication: Website, Email, Discussion Board

**Information from us:** The course website [http://www.teach.cs.toronto.edu/~csc343h/winter](http://www.teach.cs.toronto.edu/~csc343h/winter) is required reading. It contains assignment handouts and other essential material. The course discussion board is on [Piazza](http://www.teach.cs.toronto.edu/~csc343h/winter). To save you time and ensure that you don't miss any critical information, we will create a short FAQ post for each assignment that summarizes key things that have come up in other threads, and we will pin this and any other essential threads at the top of the board. You are responsible for reading all of these pinned posts at least once a week. You can set up Piazza to send you a digest of recent posts at your desired frequency: Click the gear icon in the upper right corner, then "Account/Email Settings" in the drop-down.

**Questions from you:** Please use Piazza to ask questions about assignments and course lecture material so that everyone can benefit. For personal questions, email us from your UofT address. Please include "343" in the subject line and include your full name and UTORid in the body of the message.

We will try to respond to email and Piazza postings by the end of the next business day. However, it may take longer, especially near due dates. Try to start assignments early in case you have questions. If you do not hear back quickly, we are always available during office hours to help.

Prerequisites

Arts and Science students: If you don't have the course prerequisites listed in the calendar entry, contact Professor Horton immediately to see whether you may remain in the course. Include your name, student number, full academic history from Acorn, and why you feel you are well prepared to take the course. If we don't issue a waiver, the registrar will remove you from the course.

Engineering students: If you don't have the course prerequisites listed in your calendar, your registrar may not allow you to take the course without my permission. If so, email Professor Horton with your name, student number, full academic history from Acorn, and why you feel you are well prepared to take the course.
During class time in this course, we will present material and demonstrate problem solving for part of the time. There will also regularly be activities that you participate in. Be prepared to get your gears turning in class! There is good evidence, and our experience also shows, that active learning works better than passively listening to a lecture. We also think it's a lot more fun. We will use all three hours (lecture and tutorial times) for these kinds of classes, led by your professor.

During some in-class activities, students will see and discuss each other's solutions to problems. This is your official notice (per the University's privacy regulations) that your personal information will be used in this way. If you wish to opt out of these particular activities, please notify your professor at the beginning of the term. Opting out will not directly impact your mark in the course, but you will lose a valuable learning opportunity.

To prepare for these active classes, you will be doing weekly activities outside of class. These will involve learning some material on your own, through readings or videos, and practising things we've learned in class. They will always culminate in some exercises that you hand in. These weekly activities are not intended to be greatly time consuming.

**Course Marking Scheme**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture Preparation²</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10 weekly lecture preparation activities</td>
<td>Sundays 11:00pm (Sunday at the start of weeks 2-11.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 1</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Relational Algebra</td>
<td>Wed, Feb 8 8:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 2</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Interactive and Embedded SQL</td>
<td>Wed, Mar 15 8:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 3</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>XPath, and Design &amp; Normalization</td>
<td>Wed, Apr 5 8:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Test</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Topic coverage and <strong>test location</strong> to be announced</td>
<td>L0101/L2001: Wed, Feb 15 at 12:00 noon L0201/L2201: Wed, Feb 15 at 2:00 pm L5101/L2501: Tue, Feb 14 at 6:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>Cumulative (all topics covered) <strong>Note:</strong> In order to pass this course, you must earn at least 40% on the final exam.</td>
<td>During the exam period</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

²: Lecture Preps are named after the week they are preparing you for. For example, Prep4 is your preparation for week 4, and is due on the Sunday at the start of that week.

**Resources**

These two resources are suggested to support your learning in the course:

- The textbook "A First Course in Database Systems" by Jeffrey D. Ullman and Jennifer Widom, 2008 (3rd Edition), available new and used at the UofT bookstore, and online from the publisher, Chapters, or Amazon. We also have 6 copies on short-term loan in
• The online mini-courses by Jennifer Widom at Stanford University.

Working with a Partner

You have the option of partnering with one other CSC343 student for your assignments, and we encourage you to do so. You may choose your own partner, from any section of the course on the St George campus, and it need not be the same person for each assignment. Once you begin working on an assignment, you may not dissolve your partnership without my permission. Both partners will receive the same mark for joint assignments.

Working with a partner has the potential to lighten your workload and enhance your learning or to increase your workload and impair your learning, depending on how you work together. Remember that you are responsible for learning the course material underlying all parts of the assignments. You will have the most success if you truly work together.

Assignment Policies

Assignments are due on **Wednesdays at 8:00 pm** sharp. Assignments must be submitted electronically, using the MarkUs online system. Log in with your CS Teaching Labs username and password. Be sure to confirm that you have submitted all the required files and the correct version of each; we cannot accept missing files or a different version of an already-submitted file after the due date. Code that you submit to us for grading must work on the CS Teaching Labs machines in order to earn credit.

Late Assignments

We recognize that unexpected problems sometimes make it difficult to submit assignments on time. For this reason, we will be using **grace tokens** to give you flexibility with assignment deadlines.

Each student will receive **six** grace tokens; each grace token can be used for a **two-hour extension** for an assignment. For example, you may choose to use all six grace tokens on the first assignment, extending its deadline by twelve hours. Or, you may wish to use two tokens for each assignment, extending each deadline by four hours.

MarkUs automatically deducts grace tokens when you submit an assignment late - you do not need to explicitly say you are using a grace token. If you work with a partner on an assignment, grace tokens are deducted from **every team member**, not just one of you. For example, if Melissa and Iqbal are working together, and wish to submit an assignment 3 hours late, they must both have at least two grace tokens remaining.

You may **not** use grace tokens to extend the deadline of the weekly lecture prep activities.

Special Consideration

If you are unable to complete homework or if you miss a test due to major illness or other circumstances completely outside of your control, get in touch with us immediately if you want to receive special consideration.

In order to receive special consideration, you must fill out a **Request for Special Consideration Form**. Bring the form to your one of us right away, together with your supporting documentation. In the case of illness, please have a doctor complete a **Verification of Student Illness or Injury Form**. For other emergencies, be prepared to provide some kind of documentation.
point what accommodation you may receive, but can answer other questions and offer advice. It is always easier to resolve situations earlier rather than later.

**Remark Requests**

If you feel there was an error in the marking of an assignment or test, you may request that it be remarked. Print, fill out and submit a Midterm Remark Request form or Assignment Remark Request form, as appropriate. You must give a specific reason for the request, referring to a possible error or omission by the marker.

For prompt turnaround, remark requests must be received within one week of when the item was returned.

**Academic Integrity**

The work you submit must be your own. It is an academic offence to copy someone else's work. This includes their code, their words, and even their ideas. Whether you copy or let someone else copy, it is an offence. Academic offences are taken very seriously.

At the same time, we want you to benefit from working with other students. Obviously, work done with your partner is a joint effort. You are also welcome to work appropriately with students other than your partner. It is appropriate to discuss course material and technology related to assignments, and we encourage you to do so. For example, you may work through examples that help you understand course material or a new technology, or help each other configure your system to run a supporting piece of software. You may also discuss assignment requirements.

However, other than between partners, *collaboration on assignment solutions is strictly forbidden*. The most certain way to protect yourself is not to discuss assignment solutions or the ideas behind them with students other than your partner. Certainly you must not let others see your assignment solutions, even in draft form. Please don't cheat. We want you to succeed and are here to help if you are having difficulty.

**Accessibility Needs**

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

---

Site design by Deyu Wang (dyw999 at gmail dot com)