

CSC236 Fall 2008

Course information sheet

Danny Heap

Here's a summary of the administrative details of CSC236, "Introduction to the theory of computation," for Fall 2008. In this course we learn to apply rigour and proof to fundamental tasks of computing. Please check the web page often.

COURSE WEB PAGE: See the course web page, <http://www.cdf.toronto.edu/~heap/236/f08/>. From there you will be able to see the calendar of important course events, and the course bulletin boards.

LECTURES: Our meetings are:

LECTURE SECTION L0101: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 10 am in BA1200 (Bahen 1200).

LECTURE SECTION L5101: Thursdays 6–9 in BA1200 (Bahen 1200).

Lecture material will be interspersed with tutorial-like exercises. Although I'll often post slides in advance, you'll probably need to annotate these for them to be useful.

I can be reached in person at BA4270, during lectures in BA1200, asynchronously at heap@cs.toronto.edu, and occasionally at 416-978-5899.

I will also answer some questions, and (occasionally) provide hints on the bulletin boards.

OFFICE HOURS: My office hours will be Mondays following lecture, Thursdays 3–4 pm, Thursdays following lecture, or by appointment.

In addition, there will be many office hours by course TAs in the two weeks preceding assignment due dates. These are where you are meant to get the small-group interaction that would otherwise be in tutorial.

TEXTBOOK: The text for this course is *CSC 236/240/B36 Introduction to the Theory of Computation*, by Vassos Hadzilacos. There are copies available in the bookstore, but Vassos tells me that any recent edition that includes chapters 0–8 should be fine (there have been few changes).

SYLLABUS: We will discuss the following topics:

- Induction: definitions, examples, pitfalls
- Recurrences and recursion
- Program correctness, recursive and iterative
- Formal languages
- Context-free grammars, push-down automata

MARKING SCHEME: There are eight pieces of term work for this course: three assignments, three tests, an on-line journal, and six problem sets (the sum of the problem sets is treated as one piece of term work). These eight pieces of work are ranked from best to worst (breaking ties by ranking the later piece of work lower). Your best piece of work receives a weight of 11%, your next best receives a weight of 10%, your next best receives a weight of 9%, your two next best receive a weights of 8%, your next best receives a weight of 7%, your two next best receives a weight of 6%. This generates a term work total of 65%, with an average weight of 8.125% for each piece of term work. The remaining 35% of your grade is for the final exam. In addition to this scheme, you must earn a minimum of 33.3% of the marks allotted to the final exam to pass this course (this is sometimes called an auto-fail provision).

ITEM	DUE	WEIGHT
Problem set #1	September 18th/19th (start of lecture)	1-1.83%
Problem set #2	September 25th/26th (start of lecture)	1-1.83%
Assignment #1	September 29th	6-11%
Term test #1	October 9th/10th	6-11%
Problem set #3	October 16th/17th (start of lecture)	1-1.83%
Problem set #4	October 23rd/24th (start of lecture)	1-1.83%
Assignment #2	October 27th	6-11%
Term test #2	November 6th/7th	6-11%
Problem set #5	November 13th/14th (start of lecture)	1-1.83%
Problem set #6	November 20th/21st (start of lecture)	1-1.83%
Assignment #3	November 24th	6-11%
Term test #3	December 4th/5th	6-11%
SLOG (courSe LOG)	December 5th	6-11%
Final exam	Some time in December	35%

LATENESS, SICKNESS, NATURAL DISASTERS: I cannot accept 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 web page) and provide all supporting documentation. I will do my 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 ideas are shared in a fair and respectful way. In order to make this feasible, we 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 offense, can have serious academic consequences, and is 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, 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.