Introduction to Computer Science — Course Information

General information:

CSC A08 — Introduction to Computer Science — is an introduction to the wide discipline of computer science. It teaches the basics of programming using Python, a widely used state-of-the-art programming language. We assume students have *no prior experience with programming.*

This course has six sections taught by four instructors. *Anya Tafliovich is the course coordinator*, which means that she deals with all administrative matters, including missed work, problems with your grades, and TA issues.

Instructor	Email	Section	Lecture Time
Anya Tafliovich	anya@cs.utoronto.ca	LEC01	M12-1, W11-1
		LEC04	M4-5, W1-3
Nick Cheng	nick@utsc.utoronto.ca	LEC05	M1-2, F1-3
Purva Gawde	purva.gawde@utoronto.ca	LEC02	T1-2, R1-3
		LEC06	T12-1, R9-11
Marcelo Ponce	m.ponce@utoronto.ca	LEC03	T3-4, R3-5

Required readings:

Reading materials will be posted weekly on the course website. Please, check it regularly.

Online resources:

Course information, lecture materials, assignments, important announcements, etc. will be posted on the course website or provided through the online tools, linked from the course website. It is your responsibility to visit it frequently: https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~atafliovich/csca08

Accessibility Statement:

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach your instructor and/or the AccessAbility Services Office as soon as possible. We will work with you and AccessAbility Services to ensure you can achieve your learning goals in this course. Enquiries are confidential. The UTSC AccessAbility Services staff (located in AA142) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations (416) 287-7560 or ability@utsc.utoronto.ca. Enquiries are confidential.

Diversity Statement:

Diversity is central to who we are and what we do at the University of Toronto Scarborough. We believe it is vital to foster diversity in all facets of our campus culture. In this course, it is the responsibility of each and every one of us — the instructors, the teaching assistants, and, most importantly, the students — to provide a welcoming and supportive environment for all. If you have a concern, please feel free to approach your instructor, course coordinator, or the UTSC Equity & Diversity Office as soon as possible. Enquiries are confidential.

Contacting the Instructor:

Please *use email **only** for personal issues* and use the discussion board to ask general course-related questions. Always send email *from your official UTORmail address* and *begin email subject lines with "A08"* lest your message accidentally be filed as spam. Always follow the course policy on written communication when contacting your instructor.

The website contains a form that will allow you to send *feedback anonymously* to the course coordinator. We welcome your comments.

Prerequisites and Exclusions:

Prerequisites: Grade 12 Calculus and Vectors and one other Grade 12 mathematics course.
Exclusion: CSCA20H3, CSC108H, CSC120H. May not be taken after or concurrently with CSCA48H3.
Breadth Requirements: Quantitative Reasoning

Lateness, illness, emergencies, special consideration and accommodations:

We recognise that unexpected problems, illness, or disability-related barriers sometimes make it difficult to submit assignments on time. (Remember to value both your physical and mental health! We recognise that feeling emotionally unwell can be just as debilitating toward getting coursework completed on time.) So, we are adopting a policy aiming to be as flexible as possible for a course of this size: You may request an extension of up to one week for one or more of the major assignment submissions by completing a form that will be made available when each assignment is released. See course website for details.

In case an illness or other exceptional circumstances requires a longer extension or cancellation of a piece of work, *proper documentation* (a UofT medical certificate in case of illness) must be provided. In this case a missed homework or a missed test may be cancelled at the discretion of the instructor; marks for a missed homework/test will be distributed evenly over the other marked homeworks/tests.

Policy on collaboration:

Do not use another person's work. Sharing your work with others (even if they promise to only consult with your work and not copy any parts of it) is a violation of this policy. Using a solution found on the web is a violation of this policy. If challenged by either a tutor or the instructor, you must be able to reproduce and explain any work you submit in an oral exam. Failure to observe this policy is an academic offence, carrying a penalty ranging from a zero on a homework or a test to suspension from the university. **Be very careful** when engaging "tutoring services". In previous years, we had students suspended from the university as a result of submitting work that was done with the "help" of such "tutors". When in doubt whether a tutoring company is offering real teaching or is helping students cheat, do not hesitate to ask your instructor — we are here to help!

Evaluation:

Each week, you will use an online tool called the Programming Course Resource System (PCRS) to view course materials and complete exercises. The weekly tasks are divided into three phases:
- Prepare (6%): We will post lecture videos and problems that cover the course topics for the upcoming week. After watching the videos and working through the problems, you must complete the Prepare exercise. Each Prepare exercise is worth 0.75% (best 8 of 11) and is due Monday by 9:00am, prior to the corresponding lectures.
- Rehearse: Next, you will practice applying the concepts covered in the lecture videos by completing activities of various kinds and working through more complex examples in class, with the support of your instructor and teaching assistants.

- Perform (12%): Finally, using the PCRS, you will complete a Perform exercise based on material covered in the Prepare and Rehearse phases. Each Perform exercise is worth 1.5% (best 8 of 11) and is due by the following Tuesday at 9:00am (with the exception of Perform 11, which is due on the last day of classes).

You will also complete three homework assignments, worth 8%, 10%, and 14%, correspondingly. There will be two term tests worth 7% and 10% and a final examination worth 33%. In addition, you must receive 40% or higher on the final exam to pass the course; otherwise your final course grade will be no higher than 47%.

The Course Calendar:

The course calendar, which contains dates and times of all lectures, help and office hours, as well as all assignment and exercise due dates, is linked from the course website:

https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~atafliovich/csca08/calendar.html