

Tutorial 1: Overview of CS 136

Course Personnel

- Instructors: Adrian Reetz, John Akinyemi
- Course Coordinator: Scott King
- (Full-Time) Instructional Support Assistants (ISA)s: Jack Bai, Jiayi Wang
- Instructional Apprentices (IA)s: Connor Tannahill, Alexander Van De Kleut

Getting help

Besides the obvious sources for information (CS 136 web page, Google, and Piazza), there are ways to get in touch with course personnel.

- post on Piazza,
- file a Request,
- write us an email,
- talk to the ISAs during their Lab hours, or
- join the instructors for Q&As or come to their Office hours.

Piazza

Before posting:

- **read** all *Official Posts*, especially the *Official Assignment Post*
- **search** to see if your question has already been asked

When posting:

- use **meaningful** titles (*e.g.*, “A0 Q5: Where is the secret code?” is good, “I’m stuck, please help!” is bad)
- posts regarding strategies for **Black** questions can be posted **public**; (potential) solutions must be posted **private**

- spend some time on this
- EDIT: emphasis on searching the existing posts before posting new ones, to avoid duplicate posts

Piazza

- any posts regarding **Gold** questions **must be made private**
- posts that contain any of your assignment code **must be made private**; you may post pseudo-code publicly
- posted code **must be commented**; otherwise, we will not respond

Course announcements are made on Piazza and are considered mandatory readings.

- spend some time on this
- EDIT: emphasis on searching the existing posts before posting new ones, to avoid duplicate posts

CS 136 Student Request System

This is a system for you to submit requests.

`www.student.cs.uwaterloo.ca/~cs136/cgi-bin/requests/`

- Remark requests
- General requests

Do not email your requests or post them on Piazza (also, **never** submit your assignment via email).

- Emphasize the categories, we want to encourage students to properly label their issues so that the correct ISA is notified

Emails

You can get your answers faster if you contact the right person:

- ISC for organizational problems, *i.e.*, illness, accessibility services, confidential feedback
- ISAs for assignment-related problems
- Instructors for content-related or any other problems

If in doubt, contact an instructor.

Lab Hours

ISAs will hold weekly online lab hours; see the course website for lab hours. Labs are held in Microsoft Teams:

1. navigate to **Teams** → **CS136-W20-Students** → **Lab Hours** channel
2. start a **New Conversation** and leave the message “@ISA”; this is an indicator that you are requesting a 1-on-1 call with an ISA
3. wait for an ISA to call you back

Please note that ISAs won't respond to any requests outside of the official lab hours. Use Piazza instead.

- Lab hours tend to get busy, so it should be mentioned that course staff will expect students to have attempted to debug issues on their own and have formatted their code to speed up the process of getting helped.

Instructor Q&As

Instructors will hold multiple online Q&As every week. The Q&A schedule is available on the website; you will also receive an email invitation a few hours before each session. Q&As are held in Microsoft Teams:

1. navigate to **Teams** → **CS136-W20-Students**
2. select the channel **Q&A – Adrian** or **Q&A – John**
3. join the meeting call

Come prepared to the Q&A sessions, *i.e.*, read the lecture slides in advance!

Instructor Office Hours

Instructors will hold multiple online office hours every week; see the course website for a schedule. The office hour schedule is available on the website; you will also receive an email invitation a few hours before the session.

1. navigate to **Teams** → **CS136-W20-Students**
2. select the channel **Office Hours – Adrian** or **Office Hours – John**
3. start a **New Conversation** and leave the message “@Adrian” or “@John”
4. wait for the instructor to call you back

Course Website

The course website is: www.student.cs.uwaterloo.ca/~cs136/

- assignments, solutions, and post-mortems
- marks
- schedules and contact information
- links to Piazza, Seashell, Markus, Marmoset, the Request System

- if feasible, actually bring up the website and show them a bit around

Seashell

<http://www.student.cs.uwaterloo.ca/seashell>

- Show them how to do A0Q4 as an example, motivate it with clarifying how the I/O and testing works.
- Show them how to modify their settings (wrench icon) & how to check the editor shortcuts (question mark icon)
- Explain that an offline mode exists for those with an unstable internet connection, though projects need to be synced
- Also briefly show returning students how to archive their old projects (also under the question mark).

Marmoset

- **Public** tests only cover the basics (*i.e.*, does your program compile and exit)
- **Private** tests are more comprehensive (*i.e.*, they will determine most of your mark)

Results from private tests are only available *after* the due date. The exception is A0 Q3: you can see your secret tests immediately.

It is crucial that you write your own tests as passing the public tests alone will not guarantee that your solution covers all conditions and edge cases.

- REALLY emphasize how important it is for them to design their OWN tests, point out that on certain assignments public test literally only check to see that their code does not crash
- EDIT: remind students that it's important to submit assignments early, in case there are any issue right before it's due

Assignments

Assignment questions are colour-coded as either **Black** or **Gold** to indicate if any collaboration is permitted.

For **Black** questions, **moderate collaboration** is permitted.

For **Gold** questions, **no collaboration** is permitted.

ALL parts of your submission are subject to academic integrity. This includes, *e.g.*, comments and tests as well.

Make sure to cite all of your sources.

Assignment Preambles

Make sure to read the assignment preamble

(www.student.cs.uwaterloo.ca/~cs136/current/assignment)

the preamble changes between assignments! Furthermore,

- always complete your integrity statements
- include all required documentation
- watch out for line feeds
- be aware of the marking weights

It is your responsibility to know (or at least be familiar with) the requirements and procedures as outlined on the course page.

Quizzes

We will post one or multiple quizzes every Wednesday on LEARN (learn.uwaterloo.ca/d2l/home/539714). Make sure to complete all quizzes before the end of Sunday every week as they make up 10 % of your overall CS 136 mark!

Read the instructions carefully as the format and grading of questions can change between quizzes.

Plagiarism

- we use an automatic detection system designed to detect similar code
- don't share code or test cases
- keep your eyes on your own code
- don't collaborate with other students outside of the bounds outlined in the assignment

Plagiarism Penalties

- Marked 0 on the assignment
- -5% to your overall grade in the course
- Repeat offenders may face much harsher consequences

All cases are reviewed by course staff before any penalties are applied.

Reminders

- **A0 must be completed** before you can receive any other assignment marks.
- read the sticky threads in Piazza