


# Introduction To CPSC 203

**James Tam**

James Tam

## Administrative (James Tam)

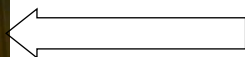


- **Contact Information**

- Office: ICT 707 
- Email: [tamj@cpsc.ucalgary.ca](mailto:tamj@cpsc.ucalgary.ca)

- **Office hours**

- Office hours: Monday (3:00 – 3:50 PM), Tuesday (2:00 - 2:50 PM)
- If I'm not in my office give me a few minutes or check the lecture room.
- Email: (any time)
- Appointment: email, phone or call
- Drop by for urgent requests (but no guarantee that I will be in if it's outside of my office hours!)



←    **My Office**

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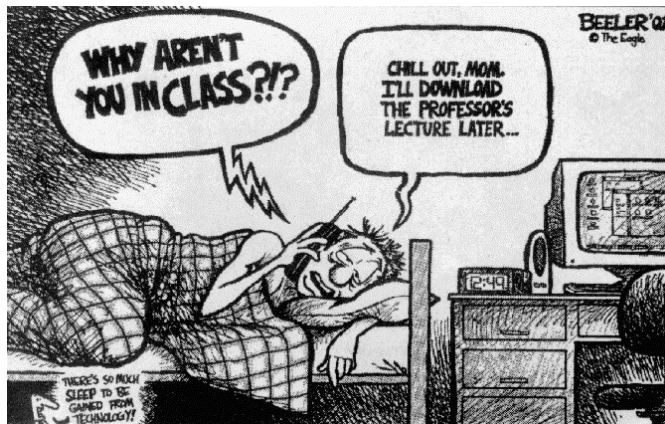
## Course Resources

- Required resources:
  - Course website: <http://pages.cpsc.ucalgary.ca/~tamj/203>
  - (Main course text) “*Peeking into Computer Science*”
  - (A3: Alice programming component) “*Interaction: Events and Event Handling, Supplementary text for University of Calgary CPSC 203*”

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## How To Use The Course Resources

- They are provided to support and supplement this class.
- Neither the course notes nor the text book are meant as a substitute for regular class attendance.



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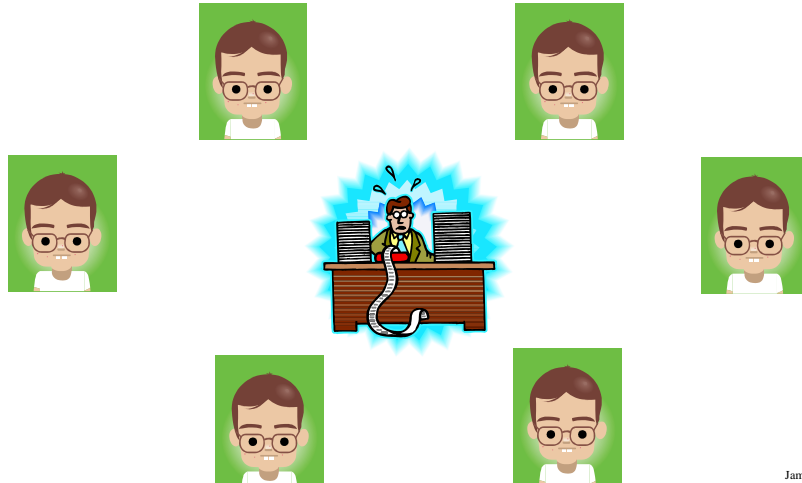
## How To Use The Course Resources (3)

- What you are responsible for:
  - Keeping up with the content in class which includes the topics covered but also announcements or assignments whether you were present in the class or not.
  - If you are absent, then you are responsible for getting the information from the other students in class.
  - (I won't be able to repeat the lecture content if you are absent...there's just too many of you to make it practical).

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## How To Use The Course Resources (4)

- However, after you've caught up by talking with a classmate:
  - Ask for help if you need it
  - There are no dumb questions



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## CPSC 203: What It Is And Isn't About

- The focus of this course is on using computer programs (as opposed to writing them).
  - Two assignments involve *using pre-created programs*: spreadsheet, database.
  - One assignment involves the *creation* of your own computer program.
- The key issue is how to use computer programs to solve problems rather than focusing on all the details of how to use a particular program.
  - Former: You need to convince prospective investors to invest in your startup company. What tools would you use to gather the data and make a compelling argument? (Spreadsheet? Database? Web page? Electronic presentation software? Do some of the program writing yourself?)
  - Latter: what series of menu options and selections would be needed to calculate an average and standard deviation using Excel.
  - Develop knowledge and skills for the former case does require teaching you some of the latter but the latter case is not the focus of this course.

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## CPSC 203: What It Is And Isn't About (2)

- Why is the course this way?
  - Employer XYZ wants to hire an Access © database developer or someone familiar with SQL queries using Oracle © now.
- Things change, get used to it.
  - The 'hot' program of today may not be so hot tomorrow.
  - Learning to 'think' and "problem solve" can help you adapt to changes.
  - Focusing less on a particular technology or program may make you more open to consider alternatives.

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## Typical 203 Student?

- There isn't one!
- This course is typically taken by students from diverse backgrounds and departments.
- As much as possible it includes skills and technical knowledge that can be applied to different disciplines.



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## Typical 203 Student? (2)

- Common computer skills coming into the course:
  - You know what a computer is!
  - You've used a computer in some form (e.g., turn on, turn off, open a file, gone online etc.)
  - You have experience with the simple features found in commonly used applications (specifically email, web browsers, text editing using a word processor).

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## What If 203 Isn't "Enough" For You?

- Think this course is too easy?



- There are other introductory courses that may be of interest.
- Both are introductions to problem solving by *writing/creating computer programs*.
  - Programming is a major component.
  - CPSC 217: For non-Computer Science majors
  - CPSC 231: For Computer Science majors

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## Evaluation Components (Exert: Course Outline<sup>1</sup>)

**Midterm Exam** 20 %

(Fri. Oct. 26th at 19:00-21:00)

**Final Exam** 40 %

*The final exam is cumulative (includes midterm material)*

**Participation Quizzes (TopHat Monacle)** 10%

<sup>1</sup> Full outline: [http://pages.cpsc.ucalgary.ca/~tamj/203/course\\_outline.pdf](http://pages.cpsc.ucalgary.ca/~tamj/203/course_outline.pdf)

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## Evaluation Components (Exert: Course Outline<sup>1</sup>)

**Tutorials** 30 %

▫ 3 Take-home assignments (5% each) 15%

▫ 3 quizzes (5% each) 15%

- Marked by TAs
- Any questions about the assignments and lab quizzes should be directed to your TA first

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## **Questions About Tutorial Marks<sup>1</sup>**

- Enquire with your TA
- Cannot enquire after 3 weeks of the date the assignment/quiz marks are posted

<sup>1</sup> Full outline: [http://pages.cpsc.ucalgary.ca/~tamj/203/course\\_outline.pdf](http://pages.cpsc.ucalgary.ca/~tamj/203/course_outline.pdf)

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## **Microsoft Office 2007<sup>1</sup>**

- Microsoft Office 2007 is required
- Your submission must also work on a Windows machine.
- It is your responsibility to make sure that your submission works on the machines in MS 236 and MS 237.
- We mark whatever you submit on a Windows machine using MS Office 2007.

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## Suspecting Plagiarism<sup>1</sup>

- Your TAs are **required** to report any suspicious cases
  - Even if suspicion is mild
- Cases are handled by the Department Head
  - Not the instructor nor the TA
- If convicted, you will be reported to your Dean

<sup>1</sup> Full outline: [http://pages.cpsc.ucalgary.ca/~tamj/203/course\\_outline.pdf](http://pages.cpsc.ucalgary.ca/~tamj/203/course_outline.pdf)

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## Exam Format (Exert: Course Outline<sup>1</sup>)

- Mainly based on lecture material
- Will contain tutorial (computer lab) material too
- Have two parts:
  1. Multiple choice
  2. Long answer (higher weight)
    - Solve problems
- Open book
- No other aids will be allowed (not even 'simple' calculators)

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### Assignment Details (Exert: Course Outline<sup>1</sup>)

- Group work (Groups of size 3)
- Groups must change between assignments
- Take-home
- Involved
  - Make use of the given time
- Similar submissions will be investigated for plagiarism
- Take-home assignments: **No extensions** under any circumstances
- Formed around the time when the assignment is released
- You must iron your team problems
- We can help, as long as the problem is reported no later than 10 days before the assignment is due
  - Otherwise, we will not listen to complaints

<sup>1</sup> Full outline: [http://pages.cpsc.ucalgary.ca/~tamj/203/course\\_outline.pdf](http://pages.cpsc.ucalgary.ca/~tamj/203/course_outline.pdf)

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### Quiz Details (Exert: Course Outline<sup>1</sup>)

- Based on Tutorial material
- Hands-on
- Individual work
- If you miss a quiz, a makeup or an alternative arrangement can be granted with a valid documented excuse

<sup>1</sup> Full outline: [http://pages.cpsc.ucalgary.ca/~tamj/203/course\\_outline.pdf](http://pages.cpsc.ucalgary.ca/~tamj/203/course_outline.pdf)

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## Marking Cutoffs (Exert: Course Outline<sup>1</sup>)

95 and up	A+
Above 90 and below 95	A
Above 85 and below 90	A-
Above 80 and below 85	B+
Above 75 and below 80	B
Above 70 and below 75	B-
Above 65 and below 70	C+
Above 60 and below 65	C
Above 55 and below 60	C-
Above 50 and below 55	D+
Above 40 below 50	D
Below 40	F

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## Feedback

What is he talking about???

Wow I am the greatest speaker in the world!



Let me know how things are going in the course:

- Am I covering the material too slowly or too quickly.
- Can you read the slides and my hand writing.
- Can you hear me in the class.
- Etc.



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