Introduction to Databases
Fall 2017

School of Computer Science
University of Waterloo

Databases CS348
Introduction to Databases

This course is designed primarily to meet the needs of students who are interested in using database technology in system development. The course presents methods used for the storage, retrieval, and organization of data.
Topics

1. Why do we use databases?
   ⇒ Functionality provided by a Database Management System

2. How do we use a Database Management System?
   ⇒ Relational model
   ⇒ Foundational query languages and SQL
   ⇒ Transactions, concurrency, and recovery

3. How do we design a database?
   ⇒ Entity-Relationship (ER) modeling
   ⇒ Accommodating and enforcing constraints
Organization

- Lectures:
  LEC 001 02:30-03:50MF RCH 110 Weddell, Grant (SE)
  LEC 002 01:00-02:20MF RCH 309 Weddell, Grant
  LEC 003 02:30-03:50MW MC 2034 Toman, David
  LEC 004 01:00-02:20MW MC 2034 Toman, David

- Office hours:
  ⇒ Tue at 10:30 am in DC 3344 (David Toman)
  ⇒ Wed at 10:30 am in DC 3346 (Grant Weddell)

- Class web site:
  ⇒ cs.uwaterloo.ca/~david/cs348/
    syllabus, schedule of classes, policies, etc.

- Textbook:
Assignments

- Four assignments throughout term
  ⇒ Sample solutions released on due date
- Goal is to give you practice with material
  ⇒ You can seek help from TAs.
- You will have more trouble learning the material (and passing the course) if you do not attempt the assignments
Getting help

1. Instructor and TA office hours
   
   ⇒ David Toman: Tuesday 10:30-12:00 am, DC 3344
   ⇒ Grant Weddell: Wednesday 10:30-12:00 am, DC 3346
   ⇒ TA hours: See the web site
Evaluation/Assessment

1. Assignments: 20%
2. Midterm exam: 30%
3. Final exam: 50%
Summary

- Look at Web site:
  ⇒ course schedule and all slides.
  ⇒ all relevant information and announcements

- Material build on itself (like most other courses in Math)
  ⇒ Initial lectures: terminology and background knowledge
  ⇒ May be an overwhelming amount of details

- Don’t fall behind!
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