PROGRAMMING STYLE GUIDE
CPSC 324: Topics in Java Programming

1. Design Documentation

Each program should be accompanied by a 1-page text document (approx. 600 words) describing the major design considerations encountered in implementing your assignment. This document must be written in English using complete sentences and should include:

- A brief (2-3 sentence) summary of the goal, or purpose, of the program. This should not be a copy of the assignment itself. Instead, this description should help someone who did not read the assignment understand the purpose of your program.
- A description of the general design of your program.
- A description of any major design issues, why these were the major issues, how you addressed them, and why you addressed them the way you did.
- A brief description of what you would have done differently if you had more time.

2. Code Documentation

All source files should be documented with comments using Javadoc tags. Please see Chapter 4 of The Elements of Java Style for how to properly comment your files. The beginning of each file should have at a minimum a comment block that includes

- your name (as the author), the date last changed, and the class and assignment number
- a general description of the class and its implementation

All classes, class variables, and methods should have mnemonic names (so that the purpose of the class, variable, or method is clear) as well as comments. Method comments should include a short description of what it does (meaningful to someone trying to call the method), pre- and post-conditions, exceptions thrown, and descriptions of arguments and return types. Again, please see The Elements of Java Style for help in commenting your code.

3. Code Formatting

You should consistently indent and format your source code using standard Java style and naming conventions described in Chapters 2 and 3 of The Elements of Java Style.