Carleton University School of Computer Science

COMP 2401 B - Introduction to Systems Programming
Course Outline -- Fall 2018
Final version
Last modified: Monday, September-03-18

Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class times:</th>
<th>Mon. and Wed. 16:00 - 17:30</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classroom:</td>
<td>RB 2200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course web site:</td>
<td>cuLearn</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Instructor Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Office Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Christine Laurendeau</td>
<td>5376 HP</td>
<td><a href="mailto:christine.laurendeau@carleton.ca">christine.laurendeau@carleton.ca</a></td>
<td>Tue. 14:00 - 15:30 Wed. 14:00 - 15:30</td>
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Teaching Assistants: Detailed TA information can be found in cuLearn.

Course Description

Introduction to system-level programming with fundamental OS concepts, procedures, primitive data types, user-defined types. Topics may include process management, memory management, process coordination and synchronization, inter-process communication, file systems, networking, pointers, heap and stack memory management, and system/library calls.

Topics Covered

The course will cover the following topics, although some material may be omitted due to time constraints:

- Introduction to computer systems
  - systems programming
  - basics of C programming
- Data representation
  - primitive data types, compound data types, pointers
- Memory management
  - Stack and heap, dynamic memory allocation, linked lists
- Program building
- Concurrent computing
  - concurrent systems
  - processes (signals, sockets) and threads
- Program structure
  - I/O
  - procedural program design and organization
  - using libraries
- Shell scripts

Prerequisites

COMP 1406 or COMP 1006, with a minimum grade of C-

Note: Students who are granted equivalencies or transfer credits in lieu of the prerequisite course(s), and students who performed poorly in the prerequisites, are responsible for learning all missing background material on their own.

Textbook(s)

Students will be evaluated in this course according to the following measures:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignments (4)</td>
<td>24 %</td>
<td>Various, to be posted in cuLearn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorials (10)</td>
<td>20 %</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests (2)</td>
<td>16 %</td>
<td>Oct. 31 and Nov. 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>40 %</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
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**Evaluation Notes**

- In order to pass the course, students must obtain a passing grade on the final exam.
- All marking disputes must be addressed with the individual responsible for marking the work (TA or instructor), within **one week** of the marks being posted. In cases where a student and a TA cannot agree, the matter will be referred to the instructor for resolution.
- There will be no extra credit available in this course.

**Course Material**

- All concepts covered in class and during tutorials are part of the course material, including the course notes and annotations, all in-class exercises, tutorial exercises, and in-class and forum discussions.
- All materials created for this course (including, but not limited to, course notes, coding examples, tutorials, tutorial code, assignments, assignment code bases, marking schemes, tests/midterms, exams, and test/midterm/exam solutions), except where otherwise noted, remain the intellectual property of the instructor. They are intended for the personal and non-transferable use of students registered in the course. Reproducing, reposting, and/or redistributing any course materials, in part or in whole, without the written consent of the instructor, is strictly prohibited.

**Assignments**

- There will be four (4) assignments in this course.
- Assignment requirements will be posted in cuLearn.
- Additional information and requirement clarifications will be posted in the assignment discussion forums in cuLearn. Students are responsible for following all instructions posted in these forums.
- All assignments must be completed in the programming environment (Virtual Machine) provided for the course.
- All assignment code submitted for credit, with the exception of base code provided by the instructor, must be original, and the student(s) submitting the assignment code must be its sole author(s).
- All assignments must be submitted in cuLearn and will be subject to the following late penalty.
- **Late penalty:** Late assignments will incur a deduction of 5% of the assignment denominator for every 30 minutes, or part of 30 minutes, up to a maximum of three (3) hours past the submission deadline. Once this three-hour time window has elapsed, the cuLearn submission link will expire, and no assignment submissions, substitutions, or corrections will be accepted for any reason.
- Only assignment files uploaded into cuLearn will be graded for credit. Students are ultimately responsible for the integrity of their assignment submissions. Submissions that contain incorrect, corrupt, or missing files may receive a grade of zero, in accordance with the assignment marking scheme. Corrections to submissions will not be accepted after the submission link expires.
- The only valid reason to appeal an assignment grade is an error by a TA in following the grading scheme. Student errors, including but not restricted to submitting a wrong or corrupted file, or submitting code that doesn’t compile or doesn’t run, are not a basis for appealing a grade.
- A maximum of one (1) assignment may be waived, for reasons of medical emergency only, supported by a completed Carleton University Medical Certificate form. No alternate documentation will be accepted. No additional assignments will be waived, for any reason.
- Assignment marks will be released to students when all the grading is completed.
Collaboration Policy

- Unless otherwise indicated in the assignment description, collaborating on the assignments is **strictly disallowed** and will be reported to the Dean of Science as an instructional offence. You must complete the work by yourself.
- For assignments where collaboration is allowed, as indicated in the assignment description:
  - collaboration is restricted to members of the same group, which will consist of no more than two (2) students
  - each student in a group must contribute an **equal** amount of work; grades will be reduced for students who do not contribute their fair share
  - collaboration between groups is **strictly disallowed** and will be reported to the Dean of Science as an instructional offence
- Posting assignment solutions online and distributing assignment solutions to other students at **any time** is strictly prohibited and will be reported to the Dean of Science as an instructional offence. This includes work **publicly** posted on source control sites like GitHub
- If you need help completing an assignment, please see a TA or your instructor.

Tutorials

Tutorial attendance:
- Tutorials begin on Sep. 13. The official schedule with all tutorial dates for the term is posted in cuLearn.
- There will be ten (10) tutorials.
- You must attend the tutorial session for which you are registered. Permission to attend an alternate session must be obtained from the instructor in advance and will be granted for reasons of medical emergency only.
- Tutorial work cannot be submitted for credit. To get your grade, you must do the work during a tutorial session. You will get zero if you begin the work before your session.

During the tutorial session:
- You must work on the tutorial provided. Tutorial questions must be completed in sequence.

Tutorial grading:
- Tutorial TAs will assign you a grade at the end of the tutorial.
- To get your grade, you must show your work to a TA and answer a series of questions to demonstrate your understanding of the work completed.
- Tutorial grading is at the discretion of the TA and is not negotiable.

Communications Policy

- Students are expected to check their email on a **daily** basis. Important course-related announcements will be posted on cuLearn and forwarded to students’ cmail accounts.
- Due to a high volume of emails, the instructor will be unable to answer emailed questions, except for matters of a confidential nature. Course policy requires that students post all questions about the course and assignments in the appropriate forum in cuLearn. Please verify whether your question has already been answered. If not, you can post your question, and it will be answered in the forum.
- TA office hours are the first point of contact for students requiring help with completing assignments.
- Instructor office hours are the first point of contact for student requiring help with the course material or academic advising.
- The instructor’s office hours are in effect from Sep. 5 to Dec. 7, excluding the week of the Fall Break.
- In case of technical issues with the installation or operation of the provided Virtual Machine, students are required to first read the documentation posted on cuLearn. Additional assistance may be provided by the course TAs, and not by the instructor.
- Students are expected to behave and communicate in a **courteous** and **professional** manner at all times. Any communications, either in person, or online in forum posts and email, that do not follow the basic precepts of common courtesy and professionalism will not be answered, and in extreme cases will be reported to university authorities.
• **Email etiquette:**
  o Emails are the equivalent of short and concise business letters, not text messages. Complete sentences and decorum are expected.
  o If this is your first course with your instructor, emails should be addressed using the “Dr.” or “Prof.” title before the instructor’s surname.
  o If you have already completed at least one course with your instructor, this instructor is fine with being addressed using her first/given name, *as long as the rest of the email is professional.*
  o Please indicate the course number in the subject line of every email.
  o It is a basic courtesy to use the words “please” and “thank you” where appropriate, especially when making a request.
  o Please be aware of the tone of your email. *This* says it all.

**Undergraduate Academic Advisor**

The Undergraduate Advisor for the School of Computer Science is available in Room 5302C HP, by telephone at 520-2600, ext. 4364 or by email at undergraduate_advisor@scs.carleton.ca. The undergraduate advisor can assist with information about prerequisites and preclusions, course substitutions/-equivalencies, understanding your academic audit and the remaining requirements for graduation. The undergraduate advisor will also refer students to appropriate resources such as the Science Student Success Centre, Learning Support Services and the Writing Tutorial Services.

**University Policies**

**Student Academic Integrity Policy**

Every student should be familiar with the Carleton University student academic integrity policy. A student found in violation of academic integrity standards may be awarded penalties which range from a reprimand to receiving a grade of F in the course or even being expelled from the program or University. Some examples of offences are: plagiarism and unauthorized co-operation or collaboration. Information on this policy may be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

**Plagiarism**

As defined by Senate, "plagiarism is presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own". Such reported offences will be reviewed by the office of the Dean of Science.

**Unauthorized Co-operation or Collaboration**

Senate policy states that "to ensure fairness and equity in assessment of term work, students shall not co-operate or collaborate in the completion of an academic assignment, in whole or in part, when the instructor has indicated that the assignment is to be completed on an individual basis". Please refer to the course outline statement or the instructor concerning this issue.

**Requests for Academic Accommodation**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation**

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](http://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

**Religious**

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](http://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a
formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

Survivors of Sexual Violence
As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities
Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline