

Department of Computer Science

CS 4475A - Open Source Software Project Course Outline - Fall 2015

Course Description

This course allows students to take part in a distributed, multi-university, open source project under the UCOSP program. (See <http://ucosp.ca> for more details.) This will give practical hands-on experience in working in software development, as well as valuable soft skills and team experience.

Lecture Hours: 9:30 - 10:30am, Thursdays, MC 300

Prerequisites: Computer Science 3307A/B or permission of the Department.

Antirequisites: Computer Science 4438A/B if taken during the 2012-2013 academic year.

Note: *Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.*

Instructor Information

One instructor will be managing and supervising the project aspects of this course:

Instructor: Michael Katchabaw

Office: MC 28H

Office Hours: 12:30 - 1:30pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays

E-Mail: katchab@csd.uwo.ca

Phone: UWO extension 84059

Course Texts

There are no required texts for this course. To assist with project development, there are many excellent references available online. While printed books are also available from many retailers, they quickly get out of date, and so it is difficult to require you to purchase one.

References and suggested readings may be provided throughout the course as the project requires them. Please check back to the course website for updates and more information.

Lectures

Lecture time will not be used for the delivery of lectures in the traditional sense. Instead, this time will be primarily used for organizing and tracking the status of projects. Consequently, class might not be held on every Thursday throughout the term; further details on class scheduling will be posted on the course website.

Course Website

The CS4475A website is accessible through the new OWL system at <http://owl.uwo.ca>. Class and project information may be posted on this website from time to time, although most information will be communicated through UCOSP channels. Nevertheless, you are responsible for reading this information frequently.

Computing Facilities

Each student will have access to an account on the Computer Science Department senior undergraduate computing facility, GAUL. In accepting the GAUL account, a student agrees to abide by the department's [Rules of Ethical Conduct](#).

Note: *After-hours access to certain Computer Science lab rooms is by student card. If a student card is lost, a replacement card will no longer open these lab rooms, and the student must bring the new card to the Systems Group. Likewise, if a student card ceases to provide access where it should, it should be brought to the Systems Group as well.*

E-Mail Contact

We will occasionally need to send e-mail messages to the whole class, or to students individually. E-Mail will be sent to the UWO e-mail address assigned to students by Information Technology Services (ITS), i.e. your e-mail address @uwo.ca. It is each student's responsibility to read this e-mail on a frequent and regular basis, or to have it forwarded to an alternative e-mail address if preferred. See the ITS website for directions on forwarding e-mail.

However, you should note that e-mail at ITS (your UWO account) and other e-mail providers may have quotas or limits on the amount of space they can use. If you let your e-mail accumulate there, your mailbox may fill up and you may lose important e-mail from your instructors. Losing e-mail that you have forwarded to an alternative e-mail address is not an excuse for not knowing about the information that was sent.

Wherever you receive e-mail, be sure to configure your spam filter to allow e-mail from the instructor's e-mail address given above. Otherwise, important messages could get trapped by your spam filter and missed. This is also not an excuse for not knowing about information that has been sent.

Student Evaluation

Grades will be based on project work assigned through UCOSP. Grades will be determined by your instructor and UCOSP supervisors and personnel.

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, you must provide valid medical or other supporting documentation to the Academic Counselling office of your home Faculty as soon as possible and contact your instructor immediately. It is the student's responsibility to make alternative arrangements with their instructor once the accommodation has been approved and the instructor has been informed. For further information please see: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

A student requiring academic accommodation due to illness should use the Student Medical Certificate when visiting an off-campus medical facility or an Accommodation Certificate from Student Health Services. The Student Medical Certificate form can be found

here: https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_document.pdf.

Projects

As discussed above, project work will be assigned through UCOSP. Students are expected to adhere to deadlines and standards set in this fashion. Details and updates will be communicated throughout the term.

Ethical Conduct

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence. Please note, however, that students are not allowed to make use of the work of others unless explicitly instructed to do so in the description of an assignment.

All projects are to be exclusively your own work. While project work requires you to work in teams, each team is expected to act individually. You may discuss approaches to problems among yourselves; however, the actual details of the work (coding, documentation, etc.) must be an individual effort. Incidents that are judged to be the result of academic dishonesty will be reported to the [Undergraduate Chair](#). The selection of penalty to be applied is up to the Chair, with consultation of the instructor.

The standard departmental penalty for assignments that are judged to be the result of academic dishonesty is, for the student's first offence, a mark of zero for the assignment, with an additional penalty equal to the weight of the assignment also being applied. You are responsible for reading and respecting the Department of Computer Science's policy on [Scholastic Offenses](#), and [Rules of Ethical Conduct](#).

The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their written work and programs in electronic form for plagiarism checking.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com/>).

Accessibility Statement

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

Support Services

Learning-skills counsellors at the Student Development Centre (<http://www.sdc.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counseling.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <http://westernusc.ca/services>.

The website for Registrarial Services is <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>.

