

**Western University  
Faculty of Science  
Department of Computer Science**

## **General Course Information**

### **Course Information:**

Computer Science 2211a  
Software Tools and System Programming  
Course Outline – **Fall Term 2020**

### **Calendar Description:**

This course provides an introduction to software tools and systems level programming. Topics include: understanding how programs run (compilation, linking, and loading), an introduction to a complex operating system (UNIX), scripting languages, and the C programming language. As time permits, other topics will be chosen from: system calls, memory management, libraries, multi-component program organization and builds, version control, debuggers and profilers.

#### **Prerequisites**

[Either] Computer Science 1027a/b, 1037a/b, or 2101a/b with a grade of at least 65%;  
[-Or-] Integrated Science 1001X with a grade of at least 60%.

Unless you have either the requisites 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.

#### **Antirequisites**

Software Engineering 2250a/b and the former Software Engineering 201a/b

### **Instructors:**

#### **Kaizhong Zhang**

**Office:** Middlesex College 372

**Office Hours:** Zoom : By Appointment Only (arranged at least one day prior)

**Course E-Mail:** cs2211a<at>uwo.ca

#### **M. Magguilli**

**Office:** Middlesex College 386

**Office Hours:** Zoom : By Appointment Only (arranged at least one day prior)

**E-Mail:** cs2211a<at>uwo.ca

## Required Material:

### Required Textbooks:

- S. Das, *Your UNIX/Linux: The Ultimate Guide*. McGraw-Hill: 3rd edition, 2013.
- K.N. King, *C Programming: A Modern Approach*. Norton: 2nd edition, 2008.

## Course Topics

The course will address as many of the following topics as time will allow:

- **UNIX Fundamentals:** UNIX vs. Windows; logging on; files and directories; path names, and directory and file structure; editors; shells; I/O redirection; UNIX concurrency (processes); utilities; file permissions and security; regular expressions; shell programming.
- **C programming:** compiling, linking and loading; data types and operators; control structures; formatted I/O; file I/O; connections between I/O and the underlying operating system; function calls; structs; enumerations; arrays; pointers (pointer arithmetics, pointers and arrays, arrays of pointers, pointers to functions); memory management; linked lists and other dynamically allocated data structures; strings; calling C from UNIX; general libraries; standard libraries and headers; the C preprocessor; C program organization.
- **UNIX Tools:** building and managing multi-component programs; the make utility; version control and configuration management; debuggers; code performance and profiling.

## Course Web Page:

The course website is located within OWL (powered by Sakai). To access the website, navigate to <http://owl.uwo.ca> and login with your university personal computer account (user id and password). Lecture notes, assignments and class information will be posted at this site. You are responsible for checking the course site regularly.

## Course Schedule:

### CS2211a Section 001

#### Available Drop In / Office Hours Times:

Tuesday	10:30 am – 11:30 am	(EDT/EST London – Ontario)
	(2:30pm – 3:30pm GMT Sept 08 – Oct 31 2020 : 3:30pm – 4:30pm Nov 01 – Dec 22, 2020)	
Thursday	10:30 am – 12:30 pm	(EDT/EST London – Ontario)
	(2:30pm – 4:30pm GMT Sept 08 – Oct 31 2020 : 3:30pm – 5:30pm Nov 01 – Dec 22, 2020)	

**Note:** The time frames above time will be used for Individual student meetings and class drop in sessions  
Details on dates and times and sign in sheets will be posted the OWL site.

## Lab Schedule:

- There will be 12 equal weight labs.
- Lab details are scheduled each week
- Lab begin the week of September 13.
- Lab descriptions will be posted on the course website.
- Labs act as practice/tutorial sessions where you can solve a problem and interact with the TA and other students.
- To be eligible for full marks, you must participate and complete at least 10 out of 12 labs, however participating and completing all 12 labs is recommended.
- All labs are to be submitted only through OWL (similar to the assignment submission process).

## Scheduled Lectures:

This course is "asynchronous,". All lecture materials will consist of videos and accompanying course slides.

Lecture materials will be available on the course website. These will be made available at the beginning of each week for the duration of the semester.

## Teaching Assistant Consulting:

Consulting will take place online. Questions regarding assignments or lecture materials can be directed to a Teaching Assistant (TA) or through the Assignment Discussions in the OWL Forums section on OWL. Questions requiring further information can be dealt with by contacting the course instructor. A list of teaching assistants and their contact information will be posted to OWL once available.

## Time zone and Scheduling of Course Components:

All times listed in this document and on the OWL course site are assumed to be in Eastern Time (the local time of the Western University campus) unless otherwise stated. Quizzes and exams will be scheduled for the Eastern Time Zone. Students must ensure they are available during these times even if they are located outside of Ontario. No alternative deadlines, quiz dates/times, or exam dates/times will be offered for students outside of the Eastern Time Zone.

## Student Evaluation:

Element	Weight
5 Assignments	30%
2 Online Quizzes	20%
10 (out of 12) Labs	10%
Peer Review	5%
Final Exam	35%

To be eligible to obtain a passing mark in the course, the final exam grade **must** be 49% or higher **AND** the weighted assignment average **must** be 49% or higher. There will be **no exceptions** or waiving of this requirement for any reason or circumstance.

## Assignments:

Students are expected to view the lecture materials and complete the online exercises to prepare for the assignments. Once the assignment is completed, all parts of the assignment must be submitted on the OWL site. It is the **student's responsibility** to ensure that all parts of each assignment are correctly uploaded and submitted in OWL, to ensure that the assignment can be marked accordingly.

**Note:** Assignments emailed to the instructor or teaching assistant **will not be** accepted, unless there are extenuating circumstances and prior approval from the instructor.

The following is the tentative assignment schedule (subject to change):

Assignment	Weight	Due Date (by 11:55 PM)
1	5%	September 22 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
2	6%	October 06 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
3	6%	October 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
4	6%	November 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
5	7%	November 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2020

The due dates of the assignments are shown in the table above. Please note that all these dates are tentative. The due dates will be confirmed when the assignments are posted on OWL. The dates will coincide with the class progression on subsequent topics.

Where possible, the instructions for each assignment will be posted on the course website at least 1 week in advance of the due date.

If for any reason the assignment schedule given above cannot be adhered to, the assignment marks will be pro-rated. The five (5) assignments are worth 30% of the overall mark for the course. If an assignment must be cancelled for any reason, the remaining assignment weights will be prorated to add up to 30%.

## Assignment Marking:

- Assignments will be marked by a TA within 2 weeks of the assignment due date where possible.
- Individual marks and a detailed marking scheme will be posted on the OWL site once marks are returned.
- Questions regarding the marking of assignments should first be directed to the teaching assistant that graded your assignment and then the course instructor assigned to your section if your discussion with the teaching assistant was not satisfactory.
- Requests for mark adjustments will only be considered if they are made within **1 week** of receiving the assignment mark and have been first discussed with the teaching assistant who marked the assignment. **Assignment marks will be final after that date.**
- Requests for mark adjustments will only be considered when they are for adjustments of **5 marks or greater**.

## Late Policy for Assignments:

- **It is expected that students budget enough time to properly submit their assignments** via OWL and allow for any unforeseen technological issues. **11:55 PM is a hard deadline** and no extensions or relief will be given for assignments that just miss this deadline or miss the deadline due to technological issues. **Students are expected to regularly backup their assignments and submit well before any deadline.**
- **The late penalty for assignments:**
  - 1 – day** Assignments submitted after 11:55 PM Eastern Time on the due date but before 11:55 PM on the day after the posted due date will be **deducted 5% of the total grade.**
  - 2 – day** Assignments submitted after 11:55 PM Eastern Time on the date following the due date but before 11:55 PM on the following day will be **deducted 15% of the total grade.**
  - 3 – day** Assignments submitted after 11:55 PM Eastern Time on the third day after the due date but before 11:55 PM on the following day will be **deducted 30% of the total grade.**
  - 4 – day** Assignments submitted after 11:55 PM Eastern Time on the fourth day after the due date but before 11:55 PM on the following day will be **deducted 60% of the total grade.**
  - 5+ – day** Assignments submitted after 11:55 PM Eastern Time on the fifth day after the due date will be **deducted 100% of the total grade.**
- **No extensions will be given for assignments** except for in the event of serious medical or compassionate grounds. A student must follow the procedure for Academic Accommodation for Medical Illness as given in this document. If an academic accommodation is approved, it is the student's responsibility to submit all documentation along with the assignment submissions. This will either be in the form of the approved self-reporting document or the document or email from student services allowing the extension. The teaching assistant grading the assignment will then apply the supplied extension to the grade.
- If the student does not submit the proper documentation, the teaching assistant will apply the prescribed penalty for late submissions.
- If an appropriate deferred due date cannot be provided, the weight of the assignment will be placed on the final exam (which option is given is at the sole discretion of the course instructor).

## Online Quizzes:

Up to two (2) quizzes will be given online via the OWL platform. The tentative quiz schedule is as follows (subject to change):

Quiz	Weight	Date & Time
1	10%	Oct 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2020 @ 11:00 am EDT (3:00pm GMT)
2	10%	Nov. 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 @ 11:00 am EST (4:00pm GMT)

Quizzes must be started at the given date and time. Failing to complete the quiz during the given times will result in a 0 grade being entered for the quiz.

**Quizzes are open book but must be done individually** and without the assistance of others. Sharing quiz questions/solutions, completing a quiz for or with another person or otherwise cheating on a quiz will result in a 0% quiz grade for ALL quizzes.

If less than two (2) quizzes are given or a quiz must be cancelled for any reason, the weight of the cancelled quiz will be placed on the final exam.

### **The makeup quizzes will be scheduled for one week after the original quiz.**

A student must have an approved absence to be eligible to take the makeup quiz. If for any reason the student cannot complete the original quiz and then cannot complete the makeup quiz, then the weight of a quiz missed due to documented and approved medical or compassionate grounds will be placed on the final exam.

### **Final Exam:**

The final exam will be conducted online and cover all course material including assigned readings, tutorials, lecture slides, and materials covered in assignments and lab homework. The final exam will be scheduled during Finals Period at Western.

The final examination in this course will be conducted using the remote proctoring service, such as Proctortrack. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide **personal information** (including some biometric data) and the session will be **recorded**. More information about this remote proctoring service is available in the Online Proctoring Guidelines at the following link:

<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/onlineproctorguidelines.pdf>

Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. Information about the technical requirements are available at the following link:

<https://www.proctortrack.com/tech-requirements/>

The final exam is to be completed individually, with no assistance or contact with others. Violation of this rule, any other exam rule, or cheating of any kind will result in a 0% grade for the final exam and the possibility of additional penalties as deemed appropriate by the course instructor, department or university including but not limited to a failing grade being entered for the course.

### **Email Contact:**

Occasionally email messages may be sent to the entire class or to students individually. Email will be sent to your UWO email address as assigned to you by Information Technology Services (ITS). It is your responsibility to read this email on a frequent and regular basis.

You should note that email at the university and thru other providers have quotas or limits on the amount of space that is dedicated to each account. Unchecked email may accumulate beyond those limits and you may be unable to retrieve important messages from the university. Losing email is not an acceptable excuse for not knowing about the information that was sent.

Email contact with the course instructors is encouraged, and we endeavour to reply to messages within 24 hours between Monday and Friday and within 48 hours on Saturday, Sunday and holidays. However, messages regarding general questions and questions about course content and assignments should be posted to the OWL forums. Questions that are specific to you (e.g. accommodations, extension requests, etc.) or your assignment's content should be sent to the course instructor assigned to your section

Please first check the Forums section in OWL to see if the information has already been posted before creating a new post. Please use proper, appropriate and respectful English when sending an email message or posting on the course web site.

## Email Standards:

Emails related to the course should be directed to the course email at [cs2211a@uwo.ca](mailto:cs2211a@uwo.ca) which will be attended by the instructor and designated TAs. Students can ask questions via email, however if there are any large, somewhat complicated issues, it is recommended to discuss them during office hours. You **MUST** use your UWO account in order to write to the course email for security and privacy reasons.

**NOTE:** Please also include a title or topic description of the contents of the email in the subject line.

## Online Conduct:

**All of the remote learning sessions for this course may be recorded.** The data captured during these recordings may include your image, voice recordings, chat logs and personal identifiers (name displayed on the screen). The recordings will be used for educational purposes related to this course, including evaluations. The recordings may be disclosed to other individuals participating in the course for their private or group study purposes. Please contact the instructor if you have any concerns related to session recordings.

**All Zoom contact will require that your video is turned on and that you can be seen by the instructor.** Not only is this a simple courtesy and the standard of Zoom classes, but it allows for a positive interaction. Any student who is in attendance of a Zoom contact and does not have their video active will be removed from the session. Do not be concerned on how you may look. Remember, you can never look as bad as the professor magguilli who is old and wrinkly and resembles a troll with a head cold.

**All Zoom contact will require that your audio is turned OFF and that you cannot be heard by the instructor** (unless you are interacting directly with the professor during the Zoom contact). Not only is this a simple courtesy and the standard of Zoom classes, but it allows for a positive interaction. Any student who is in attendance of a Zoom contact and does have their audio active will be first muted by the professor and if this persists will be removed from the session.

## Computing Facilities

Each student will be given an account on the Computer Science Department senior undergraduate computing facility, GAUL. GAUL accounts are automatically created, normally within 24 hours, after enrolment and the username/password would be the same as your UWO email account. If a student is able to log into his/her UWO email, but is unable to log into the Gual systems after 3 days of enrolment, please submit a ticket. with Science Technology Services at <https://helpdesk.sci.uwo.ca>. In accepting the GAUL account, a student agrees to abide by the computer science department's *Rules of Ethical Conduct*.

## Accommodation and Accessibility

### Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities policy can be found at:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/Academic Accommodation disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf)

## Academic Consideration for Student Absence

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the semester, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical. Otherwise the student must provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. **All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs, see:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/Academic\\_Consideration\\_for\\_absences.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf)

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf)

## Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar:

<https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a "Multiple Exam Situation" (see [http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/exam\\_schedule.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/exam_schedule.html)).

## Special Examinations

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

## Support Services:

Please visit the Science & Basic Medical Sciences Academic Counselling webpage for information on add/drop courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: <https://www.uwo.ca/sci/counselling/>



Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) at (519) 661-2147 if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

Western University is committed to a thriving campus as we deliver our courses in the mixed model of both virtual and face-to-face formats. We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience website to manage your academics and well-being: <https://www.uwo.ca/se/digital/>.

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 counselling.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western ([http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental\\_health](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>.

### **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](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

### **Plagiarism**

All required assignments, quizzes and exams may be subject to submission for textual and metadata similarity review to plagiarism detection software. All assignments, quizzes and exams submitted for such checking may be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of such services are subject to the licensing agreement with The University of Western Ontario. These services and software may include but are not limited to Turnitin (<http://www.turnitin.com>), MOSS, SCANEX, and custom plagiarism detection software developed for the course.

Computer-marked multiple-choice quizzes and exams may be subject to remote proctoring software (Proctortrack) and submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. For details on Proctortrack and remote proctoring see the final exam section.

Students must write their 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 (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All assignments are individual assignments. You may discuss approaches to problems among yourselves; however, the actual details of the work (assignment coding, answers to concept questions, etc.) must be an individual effort. All assignments will be subject to both content and metadata plagiarism analysis.

All quizzes and the final exam are to be written individually, the content and questions not shared and provided rules followed.

### **Tutors and Outside ‘Help’ on assignments**

Students may receive the help of a tutor on assignments, so long as the tutor only identifies errors or demonstrates sample problems that are **not** part of the assignment. If the content of your assignment is significantly different than if you had not received help, then this is an indication you may have crossed the line into cheating. Again, if you are unsure about how much help is too much, ask your instructor.

The role of tutoring is to help students understand course material. Tutors should not write any part or all of an assignment for the students who hire them. Tutors should not 'advise' or 'suggest' what is to be entered into an assignment or the solutions to any portion of the assignments. Any aid beyond what you would have received directly from the instructor will be considered an academic offense. Having employed the same tutor as another student is not a legitimate defense against an accusation of collusion, should two students hand in assignments judged similar beyond the possibility of coincidence.

**Academic dishonesty** in assignments includes (but is not limited to):

- Unacceptable collaboration
- What is unacceptable? There is a difference between discussing assignments and solutions with fellow students and working together on the solutions to the point where the work submitted is clearly not individual work. If in doubt, ask your instructor.
- **Copying** of another student's assignment
- **Allowing** another student to copy your work ← *this is also an **Academic Offense***
- Sharing your assignment with another student electronically or otherwise □ *this an **Academic Offense** for **both** students.*
- Using another student's assignment or work as a "template" or "starting point" for your own work. □ *this an **Academic Offense** for **both** students*
- Using sites dedicated to sharing assignment solutions or aiding cheating, including but not limited to Course Hero, OneClass, and Chegg.
- Using code from an external source (text, instructor, course website) where a student's own code is expected (if in doubt, ask your instructor)

**Academic dishonesty** in quizzes and exams includes (but is not limited to):

- Writing a quiz/exam with the aid of another person ← *this an **Academic Offense** for **both** students.*
- Sharing quiz/exam questions/answers or using ones sent to/obtained by you.

- Having another person write a quiz/exam for you.
- Failing to follow the specific rules given in the quiz/exam.
- Sharing you screen or virtually taking a quiz/exam with others (e.g. being in an online chat of any kind while taking a quiz/exam).

The penalty for academic dishonesty in any course component is receiving 0% for that component **AND** the possibility of additional penalties as deemed appropriate by the course instructor, department or university including but not limited to an additional penalty equal to the course component, or a failing overall grade being entered for the course. Note that receiving 0% on an assignment may make you ineligible for a passing grade due to the 49% requirement given in the Student Evaluation section. Receiving 0% on the final exam, will make you ineligible for a passing grade in this course.

You are responsible for reading and respecting the Computer Science Department's policy on:  
Scholastic Offences:

[https://www.csd.uwo.ca/undergraduate/current/policies/scholastic\\_offenses.html](https://www.csd.uwo.ca/undergraduate/current/policies/scholastic_offenses.html)

and Rules of Ethical Conduct:

[https://www.csd.uwo.ca/undergraduate/current/policies/ethical\\_conduct.html](https://www.csd.uwo.ca/undergraduate/current/policies/ethical_conduct.html)