Syllabus

Western University
London, Canada
Department of Computer Science

COMPUTER SCIENCE 4490y -- Thesis

COMPUTER SCIENCE 3380y -- Project
Summer 2023
COURSE OUTLINE

1. Course Description

Course Information

CS4490 - This course provides students with an opportunity to work on a project outside a particular course setting, with a faculty member at Western University as supervisor. The supervisor can be from any department at Western. Supervisors from other universities will be considered on a case-by-case basis but will require a Western professor as a proxy. The topic of the project can be in any field covered by the Dept. of Computer Science for CS4490Z theses (and can include applications from subjects outside computer science, e.g., engineering, law, and social sciences). The objective of the course is to give the student an opportunity to undertake a project which is less structured than assignments and/or which requires the student to apply knowledge and skills learned from many different courses. It is also an opportunity for the student to demonstrate skills in independent study and research.

CS3380 - This is a supervised study involving a research paper, or the design of or development of a software project.

List of Prerequisites for CS4490:

- See this link for CS4490

List of Prerequisites for CS3380:

- See this link for CS3380

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.

2. Instructor Information

Instructor (i.e. Thesis Coordinator)	Email	Office	Phone	Office Hours
Laura Reid	lreid2@uwo.ca	MC416	86905	Times available by email appointment

Students must use their Western (@uwo.ca) email addresses when contacting the instructor. Please put CS4490 or CS3380 in the subject header.

3. Course Information

This course is entirely self-directed. Projects are to be carried out individually. Thesis supervisor can be changed only PRIOR to an agreement is made with the supervisor. The supervisor-student relationship is bound once the agreement has been made. In order to take the summer version of this course a student MUST have a supervisor already in place. Any students without supervisors will be removed from the course. This decision may not be appealed. The thesis topic can be changed (only with the same supervisor) any time PRIOR to the submission of the thesis proposal, provided that: there is mutual agreement between the supervisor and the student, however the proposal deadline with NOT change.

Learning Outcomes:

Once a student has completed this course, they will be able to:

- Synthesis a problem/challenge and then describe it using clear and consist English in order to create an initial proposal
- Manage and meet deadlines when creating/researching a problem

- Communicate clearly with fellow researchers
- Research, explore and use tools such as the library or writing code to find solutions for a problem
- Construct a clear, well organized paper describing the problem and solutions which may include comparisons performed, conclusions drawn, threat analysis, etc.
- Assess the strengths and weaknesses of various methodological approaches relevant to a research question.
- Deliver and defend their findings clearly and accurately to their peers in a presentation

Class time:

This course is entirely self directed. If you have questions about the course, just email Laura and she will zoom with you to answer your questions. Her email is lreid2@uwo.ca

4. Course Materials

There are no required texts for this course. One suggested reference, available in the university library, is:

- Dawson, Christian W., Projects in Computing and Information Systems: a Student's Guide, Second Edition; Pearson Education Limited, 2009.

All course material will be posted to OWL: http://owl.uwo.ca.

If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the OWL Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

5. Method of Evaluations

This course has no final exam. The instructor will use the Owl assignments and contact with your supervisor to make sure you are on track with your project:
NOTE: Time will fly quickly over the summer, make sure you are staying on track as self-directed courses sometimes allow students to procrastinate. Meet all your deadlines!

Assignment	Grade	Due Date
Proposal	Pass/Fail - NOTE: you MUST pass the proposal in order to pass the course	May 22, 2022
Progress Check-In	Pass/Fail	Jun 23, 2023
Report and Final Project/Code/Deliverables	50%	July 24, 2023
Presentation	50%	Fourth Week of July

NOTE:

- All deliverables (Proposal, Final Report, Presentation) are mandatory. A course grade of zero will be given if there are any missing deliverables

6. Student Absences

This is a self directed course so the Thesis Coordinator will be **slightly (1 or 2 days only)** forgiving on dates (make sure you contact Laura immediately if you are going to miss a deadline). If you have a severe illness or other issue, you must see your Academic Counsellor and have the counsellor contact the Thesis Coordinator.

For further information, please consult the University's medical illness policy at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf. The Student Medical Certificate is available at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

7. Accommodation and Accessibility

Religious Accommodation

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo.

Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic Accommodation_disabilities.pdf.

8. Academic Policies

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

In accordance with policy, https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf, the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

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

9. Support Services

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

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

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

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 Accessible Education at http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

Learning-skills counsellors at the Student Development Centre (https://learning.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.

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/.

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