



Department of Computer Science
CS 4478A/B/Y - Master the Mainframe
Course Outline – 2023-2024

Course Description

The mainframe remains a critical piece of infrastructure for enterprise computing, with experts highly sought after by industry. This course studies the mainframe through IBM's annual Master the Mainframe program. Students are exposed to real-world development through hands-on projects, gaining valuable experience and skills for working with modern mainframe systems. Further details can be found here: <https://www.ibm.com/z/resources/zxplora>.

Antirequisite(s): [Computer Science 4434A/B/Y](#) if taken during Fall/Winter 2014.

Prerequisite(s): [Computer Science 3307A/B/Y](#) or permission of the Department.

Extra Information: 3 lecture hours. Note: Registration in the course is conditional upon acceptance into the IBM Master the Mainframe program by the organisers at IBM. Students are advised that the timeline for this program may vary from year to year and it is their responsibility to ensure that they can participate in the program according to their degree schedule and needs. Consultation with IBM Master the Mainframe documentation and personnel where possible is strongly recommended. The instructor or the Departments of Computer Science would not be responsible for any schedule misalignment.

Course Weight: 0.50

(IMPORTANT NOTE: The "Y" designated course is permitted only during the Summer term at Western (May-August) – please check the dates in the university calendar. Normal course terms are A and B.

The September-April duration (course spread over two terms) is not permitted for this course. The reason is that, one is making an assumption that the course will be offered during the January to April period. For business reasons, this may not be so. Thus, there is risk that if IBM decides to terminate the course before the start of the B term at Western then the student will have accomplished only half the course. Thus, to avoid this risk, we permit the “Y” course only in the summer months (May-August).

Class Hours: There are no set times or venue for this course. *Ad hoc* arrangements will be made on OWL if a class is called. Students are expected to check OWL on a regular basis for any communication from the instructor.

Instructor: Nazim Madhavji

Office Hours: by Appointment.

E-Mail (weekdays 9 AM to 5 PM): [madhavji](mailto:madhavji@gmail.com) <at> gmail <dot> com

Course Texts

There are no required texts for this course.

Lectures

There are no lectures for this course.

Computing Facilities

Each student will have access to an account on the Computer Science Department undergraduate computing facility and 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

There are three successive parts in the course to be completed within the term (A, B or Summer), weighted as follows:

Fundamentals: 10%

Concepts: 35%

Advanced: 55%

Points to note:

- Yes, if one completes all the three parts within the term, one deserves a 100% mark. All students are expected to complete the three parts fully.
- There is notification of completion for the first part and digital “badges” for completing the second and third parts. The student must download the badges from the IBM site.
- The notification and badges will need to be submitted to OWL in order to obtain a course grade at Western.
- **Partial completion of a given part by the end of the term will result in zero marks for the incomplete part.** It is in the interest of the student to complete ALL the three parts.
- One cannot start the next part without first completing the previous part.
- **There is no extension to complete any incomplete part**, so we highly recommend completion of the programming tasks at your earliest in the term rather than procrastinating till the end of the term.
- Students are responsible for tracking their own progress and no reminders will be offered from the instructor to move forward with the programming tasks.
- In case of any programming difficulties, students are expected to seek advice from the IBM moderator or colleagues in the course.

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.

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:

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

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.

You may 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.

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