



Department of Computer Science

**CS 4471A & cs9549A**

# Software Design and Architecture

**Course Outline: Fall 2026**

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## Logistics and Instruction:

|                                   |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Class Location</b>             |                                 |
| <b>Day and Classtime</b>          | Thursday 7PM – 10 PM            |
| <b>Instructor/email</b>           | Nazim H. Madhavji<br>[REDACTED] |
| <b>TAs/email-id (uwo)</b>         | TBA                             |
| <b>Office Hours (Instructor):</b> | [REDACTED]                      |
| <b>Office Hours (TA):</b>         | [REDACTED]                      |

## Sessional Dates

|                                                                      |                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <b>Term begin</b>                                                    | Wednesday, 9 <sup>th</sup> September, 2026  |
| <b>First class</b>                                                   | Thursday, 10 <sup>th</sup> September, 2026  |
| Non-instructional Day<br>(National Day for Truth and Reconciliation) | Wednesday, 30 <sup>th</sup> September, 2026 |
| <b>Final class</b>                                                   | Thursday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> December, 2026    |
| <b>Term end</b>                                                      | Wednesday, 9 <sup>th</sup> December, 2026   |

Students' comments: [0 Student Comments.doc](#)

Noteworthy points: [v2 Noteworthy Points.doc](#)

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# Course Description

The objective in this course is to share knowledge and to learn about technology on the subject “software architectures”.

A software architecture is an abstract representation of a software system, filtering out what is traditionally considered detailed design- and implementation-level issues (such as: algorithm, design patterns, data representation and coding) and highlighting such aspects as the overall system structure, inter-relationships and interaction among the elements in the system structure, and other “run-time” or “off-line” properties of the system (such as reliability, performance, portability, inter-operability, etc.).

Whereas the *requirements* of a system generally state the functionality and the expected behaviour (quality) of the deployed system, the *architecture* of the system describes how the desired functions and qualities are to be (or have been) implemented. An architecture sets bounds for lower-level design of the system and gives a technical context to future enhancements of the system.

For a large and complex (software-intensive) system, its architecture is an essential means for controlling and evolving the system. Among many other uses of the architecture include: development team organisation, overall system test planning, training of new developers, release planning, defect analysis, system component reuse, size/cost/effort estimation, and vision sharing with various stakeholders.

Among the resources required to create a high quality system architecture include: requirements of the system; organisational context; domain and

technical knowledge and experience; existing system and its architecture (if any); appropriate stakeholders; and architecting notations, methods, techniques, tools and processes.

Just as there are patterns for the design of a system, there are patterns for the architecture of the system. This helps in the selection of the entire, or parts of an, architecture from a set of choices; increasing reuse, cost reduction, and quality development.

### **Work Components**

In this course, the key work components include:

- 1) **Individual work**: Weekly assigned **readings** and creating **individual summaries**.
- 2) **Groupwork**: In-class **group summary creation**, and **Q&A and discussions**.
- 3) **Groupwork**: Creating a **technical domain model** from knowledge gained in the course.
- 4) **Groupwork: Topic research**: literature search on a specific topic, preparing a presentation, and in-class presentation.
  - a. Briefly, each team will identify a focused architectural topic (approved by the instructor), search related literature, and present their topic to the class.
- 5) **Groupwork: Project**.
  - a. Briefly, the project is about implementing microservice architecture based on desired quality attributes, on a Cloud platform (of your choice). The architecture will support certain microservices and runtime dynamism of changing microservices.
  - b. Projects will be carried out in teams that will give progress/final reports, demo, and supporting presentation.
- 6) **Individual work**: Takeaways at the end of the class as directed.
- 7) **Individual -- Show & Tell**: Individuals can “Show and Tell” about subject matter that they think will be of interest to the rest of the class. Subject to approval by the instructor. Bonus marks.

### **Class Operation – IMPORTANT TO NOTE:**

- There will be an introductory set of lectures in the class. The class

schedule will indicate the exact dates. Beyond these initial set of lectures, formal lectures will only be given as deemed necessary by the instructor.

- **Active learning:** Please note that this is not a traditional course where students receive lectures throughout the term. Rather, it is an **active course** where students collaborate within their groups and debate with other groups, live, to produce results.
  - o Students will read assigned material (as per the schedule) and extract pertinent information and submit filled templates before coming to the class. This will be assessed.
  - o In the class, each group will then create its own vision (in templates) of the assigned material. This will be assessed also.
  - o Then, based on the groups' templates there will be a Q & A debate/discussion. Groups will be assessed on the quality of their responses and questions and related discussions.
  - o Clearly, what you will get out of this class is heavily dependent upon what you will put into it.
    - Not following this advice will result in wasting your time and in poor learning experience and outcome.
  - o If still not sure about the expectations, please consult the instructor in person for advice.

#### **Equipment needed in the class:**

- You will need your **laptop** for discussing the individual templates and creating group templates among the members of your group.

#### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Familiarity with the notion of software architectures, their importance, and different types of architectures.
- Understanding of the role architectures play in software-intensive systems and in system development.
- Understanding of, and modelling experience with, system and architecture qualities, tactics and patterns (through theory and the class project).
- Understanding of management and governance issues and the relationship between architectures and business.

- Experience with: reading assigned literature and extracting key elements therefrom; formulating trigger questions; creating own comments concerning the “content”; debating technical issues through discussions and experience in interaction and public speaking.
- Experience with formulating lessons learnt on an ongoing basis.
- Experience with creating an architectural domain model from the concepts learnt in the course.
- Experience with implementing and demonstrating microservice architecture on a cloud platform.
- Experience with researching and synthesizing architecture-related material on a focused topic.
- Experience with presenting findings and project results through presentations.

## Expectations

- Some expectations were already described earlier (see the important note on **Class Operation**)
- This is not a course where one writes thousands of lines of code, characterised typically by intense effort of getting the program to work during the days approaching the project deadline. Rather, it is an intellectual course where system-level decisions are represented in a high-level notation (e.g., UML) that together form a system architecture. These decisions are implemented and demonstrated to be operational.
- Such decisions require circumspection of a wide variety of issues (user needs, domain issues, business goals, technical issues, management, regulatory and legal issues, socio-political issues, and others) that can affect the feasibility and quality of the system.
- It also requires collaboration among the project team members to achieve the project-goals. (Typically, in industry, it requires collaboration with various stakeholders such as users, requirements analysts, verification specialists, project managers, product and release managers, designers and integrators, and others.)
- In those attending the course, it requires dedication, self-motivation, teamwork, willingness to learn from diverse sources, and ability to communicate and share with others.

- In-class discussions are “triggers” for awareness of concepts in this subject. Students are expected to learn from identified sources, problem solving and group work. In other words, “active learning” also occurs outside the class time.

## Prerequisites

- For undergraduate students: CS3307 -- Object-Oriented Design and Analysis. For graduate students, an undergraduate degree with software engineering course(s).
- Also, please note the following regulation from the university:  
*Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will 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.*

**Note:** Students who have been admitted to this course without the normal prerequisites may not have been exposed to some of the background material expected for this course; it is the responsibility of these students to gain familiarity with this material on their own. These students are encouraged to speak to the instructor for advice.

*For the students who are not familiar with Requirements Engineering, it is strongly recommend that you read at least the following:*

*Requirements Engineering, by Gerald Kotonya and Ian Sommerville, Wiley, 1998.*

- *Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8*

## Textbook:

**Required Text book (hard or soft copy):**

[https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2026A&courses%5B0%5D=001\\_UW/CSC4471A](https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2026A&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/CSC4471A)

\$76.50 (rental \$64)



Software Architecture in Practice, 4th edition

Published by Addison-Wesley Professional (August 3, 2021) © 2022

Len Bass Software Engineering Institute , Software Engineering Institute | Paul Clements | Rick Kazman

ISBN-13: 9780136886099

## Additional resources of interest:

[ADDITIONAL RESOURCES](#)

## Evaluation

- All material covered in the course (including lectures, discussions, assignments and projects, books and other cited resources) is examinable.
- The teaching staff reserve the right to adjust (lower or raise) a student's marks for the tabulated components below based on their judgment of the student's knowledge and understanding of the subject matter during the term.
- **Project logistics:**
  - Projects will be carried out in groups.
  - The membership of a group will be self-assigned based on the background skills claimed. The instructor does not guarantee that the skills claimed by any individual is valid. Thus, group members are encouraged to discuss with each other to ascertain the fitness of any individual to their anticipated group.
    - The formed self-assigned groups are preliminary. The instructor will then adjust the membership of any group as seen fit.
    - Once formed and consolidated, the groups will not be changeable for the duration of the term.
  - Rules for group behaviour, responsibilities, constraints, consequences, etc., will be presented in the class by the instructor.
  - **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT:** In the event a group member is removed from his or her group for reasons of discontentment, please note that placement of that individual in another group will **\*not\*** be possible. **In this case, the student concerned would have no choice but to withdraw from the course.** PLEASE note that there is nothing else that can be done within the parameters of

operation of this course. The project and other groupwork **MUST** be done as a group and not individually.

- o The remaining group members must carry on and complete the assignment or project with the reduced membership.
- The grading criteria, as applied to each evaluation component, will be described with the details of the component.
- **Scholarship:** the general level of scholarship expected in the course components is that of the 4<sup>th</sup> year student (or of a graduate student, if so registered), which implies that the student is expected to use technologies, solutions, methodologies, concepts, and the like learned in ALL the courses to date. The student is also expected to self-learn new solutions, concepts, methodologies, and technologies, as deemed required in the course component, through publicly available sources (e.g., Open source, youtube, corporate tutorials, educational sites, and others).
- **Regrading Policy:** If a student has any concern regarding marks or feedback received for one or more specific aspects of an assignment or project and is asking for re-grading the identified aspect, the re-grading policy is that the **entire assignment** or the **entire project (with possibly multiple parts)** will be re-graded, not only the identified aspects. The net result of such re-grading could be that the marks for the entire assignment or entire project **could go up or down or stay the same**. In the event the mark goes down, the re-graded mark will be the new mark and there is no possibility to revert to the original mark given. Also, in the case of re-grading, the revised mark will be delayed.
- **Attendance in class is mandatory.** See the table below for consequences of absenteeism.
- Those who miss the in-class question and answer session, etc., will receive zero marks for this component (exceptions only as per the university policy).
- **Mid-term and Final Exam:** There are no mid-term or final exam in this course. All components that are assessed are listed in the table below.

**IMPORTANT:** grading will begin according to the schedule very early on in the term. There will be no make-up mark for days missed.

- **Use of Generative AI Tools**  
The use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Copilot, Gemini, and others) is permitted only as follows:
  - 1) First, create your own solution or description without any use of the AI tools.
  - 2) Then, optionally, you can use AI tools to produce a competitive

solution or description (or part thereof).

3) Thirdly, if you do use the AI tools for creating a partial or full solution then you must:

- do a “**comparative analysis**” of your initial solution (see 1) against the AI generated solution (see 2).
- **Document explicitly WHAT you have learnt** in the solution creation by using the AI tools.

- **NOTE: Using AI tools without carrying out step (3) above will result in reducing the mark of the deliverable concerned by 50%.**

- **Recommendation: use external tools to LEARN and be better and not to CHEAT!**

- **Student Names in ALL submissions in this course:**

- o Please note that ONLY the OWL Brightspace names of the students will be acceptable in all assignments, projects, and class submissions.

- Names on OWL Brightspace that do not correspond to names on submissions will receive a mark of zero for the evaluation component concerned.

- **Work components, Weights, and Critical dates:**

(Please see below)

| Component                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Max. %                                                                                                                                     | Dates                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| SUMMARIES of assigned readings (pre-add/drop date – Fall term)<br><br>(INDIVIDUAL TEMPLATES)                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 15**                                                                                                                                       | Weekly till 1 <sup>st</sup> December, 2026.              |
| **Summaries of assigned readings (Post-add/drop date till end of the term). This subsumes the Pre-add/drop date mark obtained.<br><br>(TEMPLATES)                                                                                                                                                       | 20                                                                                                                                         | 1 <sup>st</sup> December, 2026 till the end of the term. |
| TOPIC research and presentation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 15                                                                                                                                         | As scheduled.                                            |
| Questions and Answers (in-class interactions)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 5                                                                                                                                          | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec., 2026 (last day of class).          |
| Technical domain model resulting from the knowledge gained in the course.                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 15                                                                                                                                         | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec. 2026 (last class day).              |
| PROJECT: System architecting<br><br>(PR1: 10 pts; PR2: 30 pts; Final: 70 pts)                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 40                                                                                                                                         | As scheduled.                                            |
| INDIVIDUAL Takeaways -- created in the class and posted on the designated storage while in the class.<br><br><b>Not permitted to log Takeaways *after* the class time.</b>                                                                                                                              | 5 (for full participation only)<br><br><b>(Missing one or more Individual Takeaways will result in a 0 mark for this entire category.)</b> | As scheduled.                                            |
| Class attendance is MANDATORY.<br><br>Takeaways used as one of the indicators for absenteeism.                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Each absent class will result in 3 marks deducted from the overall marks.</b>                                                           |                                                          |
| <b>Show and Tell (S&amp;T) class presentation (volunteers – accepted on a FCFS basis and by instructor’s approval whose decision is final and cannot be appealed).</b><br><br><b>Admin of S&amp;T gets up to 3% bonus.</b><br><br><b>Bonus level is decided by the instructor and is NOT disclosed.</b> | <b><u>BONUS</u></b><br><br><b>Up to 3%.</b>                                                                                                | As scheduled.                                            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                            |                                                          |

### **Please Note:**

- Conflict with any other course is not acceptable to this course.... It will not be acceptable that a student attends the CS4471/CS9549 class for only part of the class-duration (of 3 hours).
- It will not be acceptable that a student misses the class due to reasons such as job interviews, extra-curricular activities, family trips, events, etc. Please arrange other events accordingly or be prepared to lose 3 marks per class missed.
- University policy on absenteeism will prevail.

## **Topics**

The topic list is tentative. The actual topics will be dictated by the dynamics of the class schedule.

| <b>Topics*</b>                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Course Overview &amp; Preliminaries</b>             |
| <b>Introduction to software architectures</b>          |
| <b>Quality attributes</b>                              |
| <b>Architecturally Significant Requirements (ASRs)</b> |
| <b>Architecture design</b>                             |
| <b>Architecture Evaluation</b>                         |
| <b>Special Topics</b>                                  |
| <b>Architecture and Business</b>                       |
| <b>Newer Architectures</b>                             |

\* **Note:** other literature may be added to these topics as deemed appropriate.

## **Email and OWL Policy**

**Staff contacting students:**

- We may need to send email messages to the whole class, or to students individually. Email will be sent to the UWO email address assigned to students by Western Technology Services (WTS), i.e. your email address @uwo.ca. It is each student's responsibility to read his/her email on a frequent and regular basis.

However, note that email at WTS (your UWO account) and other email providers such as google, hotmail.com or yahoo.com establish quotas or limits on the amount of space available to you. If you let your email accumulate there, your mailbox may fill up and you may lose important email from your instructors. Losing email is not an acceptable excuse for not knowing about the information that was sent. Similarly, emails may end up in your "Junk" mail folder for whatever reason. It is the student's responsibility that no email from the instructing team gets placed into the Junk mail folder.

- OWL will be used to post announcements and assignments, It is the student's responsibility to check OWL frequently and regularly to ensure that no course-related material is missed. Similarly, UWO's version of OneDrive will also be used to post material; links will be provided.

### **Student contacting Staff**

- For **technical issues** concerning the course (e.g., topic research and presentation, class project, domain model, summaries, etc.), students must create communication channels (e.g., Slack) within their group or for class-wide forums to post their questions/answers. Emails to staff for this purpose will **not** be responded to.
- For **administrative issues** (e.g., absenteeism, marks, and course registration) emails to the staff are acceptable.
  - o Email **subject line** MUST include: "cs4471A/cs9549A:" <subject>. Without this, the email may be trapped by SPAM filter and may not be available, read or responded to.

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## **Additional Statements**

### **Religious Accommodation**

When conflicts arise with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University

or prohibits certain activities, students should request an accommodation for their absence in writing to the course instructor and/or the Academic Advising office of their Faculty of Registration. This notice should be made as early as possible, but not later than two weeks prior to the writing of the examination (or one week prior to the writing of the test).

Please visit the Diversity Calendars posted on our university's EDID website for the recognized religious holidays - <https://www.edi.uwo.ca>

## **Academic 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](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf).

## **General Academic Policies**

The website for Registrar Services is <https://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>.

**Use of @uwo.ca email:** In accordance with policy, [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies\\_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf](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 email address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that emails received from the University at their official university address are attended to in a timely manner.

## **Requests for Relief** (formally known as “appeals”)

Policy on Request for Relief from Academic Decision:

[https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/requests\\_for\\_relief\\_from\\_academic\\_decisions.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/requests_for_relief_from_academic_decisions.pdf)

Procedures on Request for Relief from Academic Decision (Undergraduate):

[https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/undergrad\\_requests\\_for\\_relief\\_procedure.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/undergrad_requests_for_relief_procedure.pdf)

[If cross-listed as a grad course] Procedures on Request for Relief from Academic Decision (Graduate):

[https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/graduate\\_requests\\_for\\_relief\\_procedure.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/graduate_requests_for_relief_procedure.pdf)

## **Scholastic Offences**

Policy on Scholastic Offences:

[https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_offences.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf)

Procedures on Scholastic Offences (Undergraduate):

[https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/undergrad\\_scholastic\\_offence\\_procedure.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/undergrad_scholastic_offence_procedure.pdf)

[If cross-listed as a grad course] Procedures on Scholastic Offences (Graduate):  
[https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/graduate\\_scholastic\\_offence\\_procedure.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/graduate_scholastic_offence_procedure.pdf)

### Use of Electronic Devices During Assessments

In courses offered by the Faculty of Science, the possession of unauthorized electronic devices during any in-person assessment (such as tests, midterms, and final examinations) is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: mobile phones, smart watches, smart glasses, and wireless earbuds or headphones.

Unless explicitly stated otherwise in advance by the instructor, the presence of any such device at your desk, on your person, or within reach during an assessment will be treated as a *scholastic offence*, even if the device is not in use.

Only devices expressly permitted by the instructor (e.g., non-programmable calculators) may be brought into the assessment room. It is your responsibility to review and comply with these expectations.

### Use of Generative AI Tools

Unless otherwise stated, the use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, Google Gemini, or similar platforms) is **not permitted** in the completion of any course assessments, including but not limited to: assignments, lab reports, presentations, tests, and final examinations.

Using such tools for content generation, code writing, problem solving, translation, or summarization—when not explicitly allowed—will be treated as a **scholastic offence**.

If the use of generative AI is permitted for a particular assessment, the conditions of use will be specified by the instructor in advance. If no such permission is granted, students must assume that use is prohibited. It is your responsibility to seek clarification before using any AI tools in academic work.

### Support Services

Please visit the Science & Basic Medical Sciences Academic Advising webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, requests for relief, 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](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 [REDACTED].