



Department of Computer Science

CS 4475A/B - Open Source Software Project Undergraduate Capstone Open Source Projects

Course Outline – Fall/Winter 2026-2027

	CS4475A	CS4475B
Class start date	9 SEP., 2026	4 JAN., 2027
Class end date	9 DEC., 2026	9 APR., 2027

Course Description

This course allows students to take part in an open source project mentored in industry. This will give practical hands-on experience in working in software development, as well as valuable soft skills and team experience.

Note:

- Students must notify the Department of their interest in registration in the course prior to the preceding May 1st for Computer Science 4475A or September 1st for Computer Science 4475B.
- Registration in the course is competitive and conditional to finding a suitable open source project in industry.
- A committee will adjudicate students on the basis of grades in the degree program.
- In some projects, travel may be necessary; in the case that travel is outside of Canada, students will need valid travel documentation and must consult with the Department in advance if this is an issue. Costs related issues, if any, must be discussed prior to registration.

Class Hours: Thursday 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM – [announced via OWL as needed](#).

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

Coordinator	Email	Office	Phone	Office Hours
Prof. Nazim Madhavji (Course Coordinator)				

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 While printed books are also available from many retailers, they can get out of date, and so be judicious in your purchase decision.

Lectures

Lecture time will not be used for the delivery of lectures in the traditional sense. Instead, this time will be primarily used for monitoring projects. Consequently, if a class is deemed necessary, details will be posted on OWL.

Course Website

The CS4475A course details can be accessed on OWL Brightspace.

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.

E-Mail Contact

We will occasionally need to send e-mail messages to the whole class, or to students individually. E-mails will be sent to the UWO e-mail address assigned to students by Western Technology Services (WTS). It is each student's responsibility to read these e-mails. Please check your spam folder for course-related emails.

Student Evaluation

Grades will be based on the accomplishment in the project work assigned. Grades will be determined by the course coordinator in conjunction with feedback from the project mentor. Critical parameters used in assessing the project are:

Grading categories: as per UWO.	Grading scale: A+ (90-100); A (80-89); B (70-79); C (60-69); D (50-59); F (0-50).	Weights
<u>Completeness:</u> extent to which the accomplished work is complete in comparison to the objectives set.		0.4
<u>Quality of work:</u> extent to which the student's work (software artefacts developed, data gathered and analysed, project documentation, etc.) meets or exceeds the expected standard.		0.3
<u>Traits as a colleague:</u> extent to which the student demonstrated some of the following traits (dependable, empathetic, trustworthy, self-motivated, dedicated, organised, respectful, punctual, flexible, team-player, modest).		0.2
<u>Eager to learn and share:</u> extent to which the student showed willingness to learn new concepts and technologies and share knowledge with colleagues.		0.1

The overall % grade is the summation of the grades in different categories.

Project Initiation, Project work, Deliverables, and Deadline

- Project work can begin after the “handshake” between the student and the mentor.
- The technical work in the project will be assigned by the mentor of the open source project.
- Students are expected to adhere to any internal deadlines and standards set by the mentor.
- All artefacts and documentation created in the assigned project must be submitted to the mentor for assessment and feedback. Failing to submit these materials will result in a zero grade for the course.
- All project work must be completed prior to the term-end date indicated at the beginning of this document.

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** from 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!**

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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.

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, 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

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

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/undergrad_requests_for_relief_procedure.pdf

Scholastic Offences

Policy on Scholastic Offences:

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

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.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.