



Department of Computer Science

CS 4478A/B/Y - Master the Mainframe

Course Outline – 2026-2027

	CS4478A	CS4478B	CS4478Y
Class start date	9 SEP., 2026	4 JAN., 2027	3 MAY, 2027
Class end date	9 DEC., 2026	9 APR., 2027	23 JUL., 2027

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/zxplere>.

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 where possible is strongly recommended. The course coordinator or the Department of Computer Science would not be responsible for any schedule misalignment.

Course Weight: 0.50

Course offerings:

- The normal course terms are A and B.
- The "Y" designated course is permitted ONLY during the Summer term at Western (May-July) – please check the exact summer dates in the university calendar. No other options are possible.

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

Instructor	Email	Office	Phone	Office Hours
Dr. Nazim Madhavji				

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.

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 Western Technology Services (WTS). It is each student's responsibility to read this e-mail on a frequent and regular basis.

Deliverables and Evaluation

Deliverables	% mark	Submission date	Important comment
Fundamentals, Concepts (badge)	45	Last day of the class (please see the respective end dates for A/B/Y courses at the beginning of this document)	Absolutely no extensions will be granted. There is significant flexibility into this course for students to complete all the three parts on time.
			A screen-dump of a badge or a badge without student name will NOT be accepted and will receive a mark of Zero.

Advanced (badge)	55		
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- **The file name of each deliverable must respect the following format:**
<First Name> <Last Name>_<Advanced|Concepts>
- There are two successive parts in the course to be completed: Fundamentals + Concepts, and Advanced. If one completes all the parts within the deadline, one deserves a 100% mark. All students are encouraged to complete all the parts fully.
- The student must download the badges for the completed parts from the IBM site. **Please make sure that the downloaded badge has your name. Otherwise, the badge will NOT be accepted and you will receive a mark of Zero for the badges concerned.**
- The badges must be submitted to OWL in order to obtain a course grade at Western. An assignment will be set up for submissions.
- **Partial completion of a given part will result in zero marks for the incomplete 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 course coordinator to move forward with the programming tasks.**

Technical difficulties:

- In case of any technical difficulties, the advice from IBM Z skills Leader is that students should access the forum on the IBM Z Xplore homepage for assistance. Please do not contact any IBM staff for technical issues.

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!**

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 [REDACTED].