



Department of Computer Science
CS 4478A/B/Y - Master the Mainframe
Course Outline – 2025-2026

	CS4478A	CS4478B	CS4478Y
Class start date	4 SEP., 2025	5 JAN., 2026	4 MAY, 2026
Class end date	9 DEC., 2025	9 APR., 2026	24 JUL., 2026

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

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 instructor.

Instructor	Email	Office	Phone	Office Hours
Dr. Nazim Madhavji	madhavji <at> gmail <dot> com			E-Mail: (Mon-Fri 9 AM to 5 PM)

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 (notification)	10	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.
Concepts (badge)	35		A screen-dump of a badge or a badge without student name will NOT be accepted and will receive a mark of Zero.
Advanced	55		

(badge)			
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- **The file name of each deliverable must respect the following format:**
<First Name> <Last Name>_<Advanced|Concepts|Fundamentals>
- There are three successive parts in the course to be completed: Fundamentals, Concepts, and Advanced. If one completes all the three parts within the deadline, one deserves a 100% mark. All students are expected to complete the three parts fully.
- There is notification of completion for the Fundamentals part and digital “badges” for completing the Concepts and Advanced parts. The student must download the badges 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 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 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.**

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.

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!**

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

This policy sets out the parameters for students to be excused from academic responsibilities for extenuating circumstances (i.e., personal circumstances beyond the student's control that have a substantial but temporary impact on the student's ability to meet essential academic requirements). Students experiencing longer-term impacts on their academic responsibilities should consult Accessible Education. See:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.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/>.