COMP1911: Computing 1A

Term 2, 2023
Course Admin

- **Convenor/Lecturer**: Dr Ashesh Mahidadia (a.mahidadia@unsw.edu.au)
- **Admin**: Dylan Brotherston (d.brotherston@unsw.edu.au)
- **Tutors**: Elisa Ho, Jennifer King, Gabriel Zeitoun, Morgan Swaak, Jocelyn Liang, Liam Druckman, Elline Qian

- **Class webpage**: https://webcms3.cse.unsw.edu.au/COMP1911/23T2/
- **Course email**: cs1911@cse.unsw.edu.au

- **Bookmark** the above class webpage. All course information is placed on the course web site. COMP1911 (and other COMP courses) does not use Moodle.

- **Lecture Recordings**: available from Moodle, there is a link from the class webpage, click on “Lecture Recording”
Getting Help

Getting Help …

- read Course Outline (on website)
- **Help Sessions** and **Consultations** (listed on class webpage)
- ask Lecturer after the lecture
- talk to your Tutor
- ask on the course Forum
- For general administrative questions, email to the class email address

  cs1911@cse.unsw.edu.au
COMP1911

- Introductory programming course for non-CS majors
- Focus on design, readability, testing, debugging
- No prerequisites, no assumed knowledge
- This course teaches you:
COMP1911 vs COMP1511

- Non-CS majors with an interest/passion in computer science should take COMP1511.
- If you have previous programming experience - and enjoyed it - choose COMP1511.
- We also offer a bridging course for students who take COMP1911 and discover they should have taken COMP1511.
- Many COMP courses effectively require COMP1511.
- CS majors must take COMP1511.
- COMP1511 == COMP1911 + the bridging course
  - Note: COMP1521 - Prerequisite: COMP1511 or DPST1091 or COMP1911 or COMP1917.
COMP1911 - COMP1511 bridging course

• 1 week during the break between T2 and T3.
• Covers (quickly) key material in COMP1511 but not COMP1911.
• Lecture, 4 tut-labs and prac exam.
• Satisfactory performance on bridging course exam allows you to proceed to subjects with COMP1511 as a pre-requisite.
• Email sent to all COMP1911 students after final marks released.
• If course capacity reached, students with best marks get in.
• Guaranteed entry if you get a HD.
• Free!
How to succeed in COMP1911

4 keys to COMP1911:
• Ask for help when you need (use forum correctly!)
• Be patient and don't stop trying, programming can be hard
• Keep on top of coursework - labs and assignments
• Practice, practice, practice
Welcome to COMP1911!

In this course, you will …

● learn “computational” problem solving

● learn to “think like a programmer”
Welcome (cont)

At the end of the course, you’ll be able to …

- take a description of a problem
- design a step-by-step method of solving the problem
- implement your method in the C programming language

You will also …

- know your way around the Linux operating system
- be able to use Linux command-line tools
- and understand what on earth the above two lines mean!
About You

We do not assume

- that you have ever programmed before
- that you are familiar with the Linux OS

We assume that you …

- have some mathematical background
- can speak/read fluent English
- have (maybe) touched a computer before
How COMP1911 Runs

- **Lectures**: explain concepts, give demos
- **Tutorials**: clarify concepts, practice analysis, learn “think before coding”
  - Attempt the tutorial problems yourself **beforehand**
  - actively participate in your tutorials
  - Solutions will be available the following week
- **Lab classes**: practice building small software, build skills needed for assignments and exam, 10% of the final marks.
  - Attempt the lab problems yourself **beforehand**
  - actively participate in your labs
- **Assignments**: build “large” software systems
- **Exams**: show that you’ve worked out the above
## Assessments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lab Work</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments (Assignment-1: 20%, Assignment-2: 20%)</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (everything - exam period)</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to passing the course, you must obtain a satisfactory result on the final exam; that is, you must receive 50% or more marks in the final exam.
Exam

- There will be a centrally timetabled **in person** (face-to-face) **final exam**, in the CSE labs.
- Please note that **all students** are required to take the exam in person, even if they have enrolled in online classes.
- There is a hurdle requirement for this course that you must receive at least 20/50 marks in the final exam.
- The exact exam format (exam skeleton) will be released in week 10 but it is likely there will be 4-6 implementation tasks.
- The exam may consist of quiz, small implementation tasks which will require you to write C programs, and some theory questions. All questions will be answered and submitted on a computer. There is no handwritten component.
How to Pass the Exams

- do the lab exercises
- do the assignments yourself
- practise programming outside classes
- treat extra tutorial questions like a mini prac exam
Supplementary Assessment

- Students are eligible for a Supplementary Exam if and only if:
  - Students cannot attend the final exam due to illness or misadventure. Students must **formally apply** for a special consideration, and it **must be approved** by the respective authority.
  - The supplementary exam will be centrally timetabled, it is *your responsibility* to be in Sydney and available for the supplementary exam.
  - Importantly, NO alternative will be offered.
Student Conduct

COMP1911 is a learning environment

- do not plagiarise, contract out work, etc.

COMP1911 should be a safe environment

- do not troll, harass other course members

Breaches of above result in

- referral for UNSW academic misconduct
Course text

Optional Course text

*Programming, Problem Solving, and Abstraction with C*
By Alistair Moffat, Pearson Educational, Australia, 2012, ISBN 1486010970

- good textbook - recommended if you want a text
- not required
How to succeed in COMP1911

Successful COMP1911 students:

● prepare for tutorials and participate
● work on lab exercises before and after labs
● start assignments early
● do assignments and labs themselves
● practice - code, code, code
● don’t panic - think, persevere
Course Evaluation and Development

- informal feedback during the semester is very welcome!
- let us know of any problems as soon as they arise
- we can’t fix problems we don’t know about
- assessed with myExperience at the end of the session
The CSE Labs

- CSE has lab computers
- unlike other workstations at UNSW, these don’t run Windows
- they run Linux, which is very different
- the easiest way to use these (if you’re not in a lab) is using VLAB
- use your zID and zPass to log in, if you don’t have a zID/zPass, you should fix that asap!
Tutorials and Labs

- Tutorial & labs start week 1.

- Lab exercises are worth marks. You must submit your labs on time and get them marked off by the tutor within the following week to get the marks.
- The first lab in week 1 is designed to help you familiarise yourself with the CSE Linux lab environment and get you compiling and running C programs.
Tutorials and Labs

TigerVNC,
https://vlabgateway.cse.unsw.edu.au/vnc/vnc.html?host=vlabgateway-1280x800.cse.unsw.edu.au

Windows Subsystem for Linux

...
Email

- UNSW students are automatically given a UNSW email address.
- It looks like:
z1234567@student.unsw.edu.au or d.ritchie@student.unsw.edu.au
- You must read it, important information is sent to it.
- If you redirect your UNSW address, e.g. to gmail, make sure you get it right - test the forwarding!
Credits for Material

COMP1911 material is prepared by Ashesh Mahidadia, and ideas are drawn from:

- Slides by Andrew Taylor (COMP1511 18s1)
- Slides by Andrew Bennett (COMP1511 17s2)
- Slides by John Shepherd (COMP1511 18s1)
- Slides by Binghao Li (COMP1911 22T2)
Have Fun!!!