

Western University
Faculty of Engineering
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
ECE 3389A/B: Computer System Design

Course Outline 2017-18

Description: The objective of this course is to expose the student core topics and techniques for the design or analysis of computer systems, from the constrained embedded microprocessors to the most powerful supercomputers. The topics begin with the fundamental and background material needed to understand the basic characteristics of a computer system with an overview of digital computer technology, and a detailed perspective on computer system performance. Then, main topics of Instruction Set Architecture (ISA), central processing unit (CPU), arithmetic/logic units (ALUs), memory hierarchy will be discussed. After establishing these fundamentals, the design of a simple processor and applying some techniques to increase its performance will be considered.

Instructor: Dr. Arash Reyhani-Masoleh
 TEB 243, 519-661-2111 ext. 81253, areyhani@uwo.ca
 Consultation hours: Mondays: 3:30 pm- 4:30 pm, other times: by appointment please.

Academic Calendar Copy: Introduction to computer system design and the architecture of modern high-performance computers. Memory hierarchy. RISC, superscalar, and multi-core architectures. Microprogrammed and hardwired control implementations. Students will complete group design projects integrating these concepts.

Contact Hours: 3 lecture hours/week, 1.5 laboratory hours, 0.5 course.

ECE 3389A - COMPUTER SYSTEM DESIGN

Section	Component	Days	Start Time	End Time	Location
001	LEC	M	5:30 PM	7:30 PM	HSB-9
001	LEC	W	10:30 AM	11:30 AM	SEB-2200
002/004	LAB	F	12:30 PM	3:30 PM	SEB-3099
003	LAB	W	12:30 PM	3:30 PM	SEB-3097

Antirequisite(s): ECE 4470A/B, ECE 4489A/B.

Prerequisites: ECE 2277a/b, ECE 3375a/b, ECE 3380a/b

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol 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.

CEAB Academic Units: Engineering Science 75%, Engineering Design 25%

Required Textbook: Behrooz Parhami, “Computer Architecture From Microprocessors to Supercomputers,” first edition, 2005, Oxford University Press, 576 pages, ISBN-10: **019515455X**

Reference materials:

- Charles H. Roth, Jr., Digital Systems Design Using VHDL, 2nd Edition, PWS Publishing, ISBN: 0534384625.
- David A. Patterson & John L. Hennessy, “Computer organization and design: the hardware/software interface” Morgan Kaufmann (Elsevier).

General Learning Objectives (CEAB Graduate Attributes)

Knowledge Base	3/1	Use of Engineering Tools	3/2	Impact on Society and the Environment	
Problem Analysis	3/2	Individual and Team Work		Ethics and Equity	
Investigation		Communication Skills	3/2	Economics and Project Management	
Design	3/2	Professionalism		Life-Long Learning	

Notation: x/y , where x is the cognitive level (1: Remember, 2: Understand, 3: Apply) at which the attribute is assessed and y is the academic level (1: Beginner, 2: Intermediate, 3: Advanced) at which the attribute is assessed.

Topics and Specific Learning Objectives

1. Background and Motivation

At the end of this section, students will be able to:

- Understand the basic components used in building digital circuits and typical computer architectures
- Know an overview of computer technology
- Understand the meaning of computer performance.

2. Instruction Set Architecture (ISA)

At the end of this section, students will be able to:

- a. Know the instruction set of MiniMIPS (a simple, realistic and useful instruction set)
- b. Understand how machine language programs are executed
- c. Be familiar with the RISC vs CISC instruction-set design philosophy and associated cost-performance trade-offs.

3. Detailed Structure of Arithmetic and Logic Units (ALUs)

At the end of this section, students will be able to:

- a. Distinguish between the fixed- and floating-point number representations
- b. Design high-speed adders, shift and logical operations, and hardware multipliers/dividers
- c. Know implementation aspects and pitfalls of floating-point arithmetic

4. Data Path and Control Units

At the end of this section, students will be able to:

- a. Design a simple computer (MicroMIPS)
- b. Learn about data path and control unit within the CPU
- c. Know about microprogrammed and hardwired control implementations
- d. Understand how to use pipelining for achieving greater performance.

5. Memory System Design

At the end of this section, students will be able to:

- a. Know the technologies, limitations and strengths of using primary and secondary memories
- b. Be familiar with SRAM, DRAM, flash (nonvolatile), pipelined and interleaved memories
- c. Understand the need for a memory hierarchy, cache memory organization and how to improve cache performance

6. Advanced Computer Architectures

At the end of this section, students will be able to:

- a. Be familiar with higher performance architectures and their applications
- b. Know how to improve computer system performance beyond pipelining

Evaluation

Course Component	Weight
Laboratory/Project	20%
Quizzes	5%
Midterm Test	25%
Final Examination	50%

To obtain a passing grade in the course, a mark of 50% or more must be achieved on the final examination as well as on the laboratory. A final examination or laboratory mark < 50% will result in a final course grade of 48% or less.

Bonus grade on Attendance: Class attendance will be recorded on an attendance sheet and a BONUS grade will be assigned based on the following breakdown:

Percentage of Attendance	Bonus Grade (Out of 3)
1 – 49	0
50 – 69	1
70 – 89	2
90 and above	3

Laboratory: The laboratory component consists of three laboratory exercises/projects posted on OWL. A student’s mark is determined by the teaching assistant’s evaluation of (1) the written report and (2) a demonstration by the student of a properly functioning software-implementation of the circuits for that lab/project.

Midterm Test: A two-hour closed-book midterm test will take place during the regularly scheduled lecture. The exam date will be announced in the course website on OWL. The examination is **closed book**, with no aids permitted (i.e. NO books, notes, calculators, or other information processing devices).

Final Examination: A three-hour closed-book final exam will be scheduled during the regular Fall term examination period in December. This examination is **closed book**, with no aids permitted (i.e. NO books, notes, calculators, or other information processing devices).

Use of English: In accordance with Senate and Faculty Policy, students may be penalized up to 10% of the marks on all assignments, tests, and examinations for improper use of English. Additionally, poorly written work with the exception of the final examination may be returned without grading. If resubmission of the work is permitted, it may be graded with marks deducted for poor English and/or late submission.

Attendance: Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class, laboratory, or tutorial periods will be reported to the Dean (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the department, and with the permission of the Dean, the student will be debarred from taking the regular final examination in the course.

Absence Due to Illness or Other Circumstances: Students should immediately consult with the instructor or department Chair if they have any problems that could affect their performance in the course. Where appropriate, the problems should be documented (see the attached “Instructions for Students Unable to Write Tests or Examinations or Submit Assignments as Scheduled”). The student should seek advice from the instructor or department Chair regarding how best to deal with the problem. Failure to notify the instructor or department Chair immediately (or as soon as possible thereafter) will have a negative effect on any appeal.

For more information concerning medical accommodations, see the relevant section of the Academic Handbook:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

For more information concerning accommodations for religious holidays, see the relevant section of the Academic Handbook:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_religious.pdf

Missed Midterm Examinations: If a student misses a midterm examination, the exam will not be rescheduled. The student must follow the Instructions for Students Unable to Write Tests and provide documentation to their department within 24 hours of the missed test. The department will decide whether to allow the reweighting of the test, where reweighting means the marks normally allotted for the midterm will be added to the final exam. If no reasonable justification for missing the test can be found, then the student will receive a mark of zero for the test.

If a student is going to miss the midterm examination for religious reasons, they must inform the instructor in writing within 48 hours of the announcement of the exam date or they will be required to write the exam.

Cheating and Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. University policy states that cheating, including plagiarism, is a scholastic offence. The commission of a scholastic offence is attended by academic penalties, which might include expulsion from the program. If you are caught cheating, there will be no second warning.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to commercial plagiarism-detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents on the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between the University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, in the relevant section of the Academic Handbook:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Use of Electronic Devices: Students may use laptops, tablet computers, or smart phones *only* to access the course OWL site during lectures. The exams are **closed book**, with no aids permitted (i.e. NO books, notes, calculators, or other information processing devices).

Policy on Repeating All Components of a Course: Students who are required to repeat an Engineering course must repeat all components of the course. No special permissions will be granted enabling a student to retain laboratory, assignment, or test marks from previous years. Previously completed assignments and laboratories cannot be resubmitted by the student for grading in subsequent years.

Internet and Electronic Mail: Students are responsible for regularly checking their Western e-mail and the course web site (<https://owl.uwo.ca/portal/>) and making themselves aware of any information that is posted about the course.

Accessibility: Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to

contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519-661-2111 ext. 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

Support Services: Office of the Registrar, <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
Student Development Centre, <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>
Engineering Undergraduate Services, <http://www.eng.uwo.ca/undergraduate/>
USC Student Support Services, <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western, http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/, for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS UNABLE TO WRITE TESTS OR EXAMINATIONS OR SUBMIT ASSIGNMENTS AS SCHEDULED

IF, ON MEDICAL OR COMPASSIONATE GROUNDS, YOU ARE UNABLE TO WRITE TERM TESTS OR FINAL EXAMINATIONS OR COMPLETE COURSE WORK BY THE DUE DATE, YOU SHOULD FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS LISTED BELOW. YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT ACADEMIC RELIEF WILL NOT BE GRANTED AUTOMATICALLY ON REQUEST. YOU MUST DEMONSTRATE TO YOUR DEPARTMENT (OR THE UNDERGRADUATE SERVICES OFFICE) THAT THERE ARE COMPELLING MEDICAL OR COMPASSIONATE GROUNDS THAT CAN BE DOCUMENTED BEFORE ACADEMIC RELIEF WILL BE CONSIDERED. DIFFERENT REGULATIONS APPLY TO TERM TESTS, FINAL EXAMINATIONS AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS. PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY. (SEE THE 2017 UWO ACADEMIC CALENDAR).

A. GENERAL REGULATIONS & PROCEDURES

1. All first year students will report to the Undergraduate Services Office, SEB 2097, for all instances.
2. If you are an upper year student and you are missing a test/assignment/lab or exam that is worth MORE THAN 10% of your final grade, you will report to the Undergraduate Services Office, SEB 2097. Otherwise, you will report to your department office to request relief.
3. Check the course outline to see if the instructor has a policy for missed tests, examinations, late assignments or attendance.
4. Documentation must be provided as soon as possible. If no one is available in your Department office or the Undergraduate Services Office, leave a message clearly stating your name & student number and reason for your call. The department telephone numbers are given at the end of these instructions.
5. If you decide to write a test or an examination you should be prepared to accept the mark you earn. Rewriting tests or examinations or having the value of a test or examination reweighted on a retroactive basis is not permitted.

B. TERM TESTS

1. If you are in first year and you are unable to write a term test, contact the Undergraduate Services Office, SEB 2097 PRIOR to the scheduled date of the test.
2. If you are an upper year student and you are unable to write a term test, inform your instructor PRIOR to the scheduled date of the test. If the instructor is not available, leave a message for him/her at the department office. If the test is worth MORE THAN 10% of your final grade you will report to the Undergraduate Services Office, SEB 2097 to request relief. Otherwise, you will report to your department office to request relief.
3. Be prepared to provide supporting documentation to the Department Chair and/or the Undergraduate Services Office (see next page for information on documentation).
4. Discuss with the instructor if and when the test can be rescheduled. **N.B.** The approval of the Chair or the Undergraduate Services Office is required when rescheduling term tests.

C. FINAL EXAMINATIONS

1. If you are unable to write a final examination, contact the Undergraduate Services Office PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED EXAMINATION TIME to request permission to write a Special Final Examination. If no one is available in the Undergraduate Services Office, leave a message clearly stating your name & student number.
2. Be prepared to provide the Undergraduate Services Office with supporting documentation (see next page for information on documentation) the next day, or as soon as possible (in cases where students are hospitalized). The following circumstances are not considered grounds for missing a final examination or requesting special examinations: common cold, sleeping in, misreading timetable and travel arrangements.
3. In order to receive permission to write a Special Examination, you must obtain the approval of the Chair of the Department **and** the Associate Dean and in order to apply you must sign a "Recommendation for a Special Examination Form" available in the Undergraduate Services Office. The Undergraduate Services Office will then notify the course instructor(s) and reschedule the examination on your behalf.

N.B. It is the student's responsibility to check the date, time and location of the Special Examination.

D. LATE ASSIGNMENTS

1. Advise the instructor if you are having problems completing the assignment on time (**prior** to the due date of the assignment).
2. Be prepared to provide documentation if requested by the instructor (see reverse side for information on documentation).
3. If you are granted an extension, establish a due date. The approval of the Chair of your Department (or the Associate Dean if you are in first year) is not required if assignments will be completed prior to the last day of classes.
4.
 - i) Extensions beyond the end of classes must have the consent of the instructor, the department Chair and the Associate Dean. Documentation is mandatory.
 - ii) A Recommendation of Incomplete Form must be filled out indicating the work to be completed and the date by which it is due. This form must be signed by the student, the instructor, the department Chair and the Associate Dean.

E. SHORT ABSENCES

If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problem, check your course outlines for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test, laboratory or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate.

F. EXTENDED ABSENCES

If you are absent more than one week or if you get too far behind to catch up, you should consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses. (Note drop deadlines listed below). You may want to seek advice from the academic counsellor in your Department or Ms. Karen Murray in the Undergraduate Services Office, if you are in first year.

G. DOCUMENTATION

If you consulted an off-campus doctor or Student Health Services regarding your illness or personal problem, **you must provide the doctor with a Student Medical Certificate** to complete at the time of your visit and then bring it to the Department (or the Undergraduate Services Office). **This note must contain the following information: severity of illness, effect on academic studies and duration of absence. Regular doctor's notes will not be accepted; only the Student Medical Certificate will be accepted.**

In Case of Serious Illness of a Family Member: Provide a Student Medical Certificate to your family member's physician to complete and bring it to the Department (or the Undergraduate Services Office if you are in first year).

In Case of a Death: Obtain a copy of the death certificate or the notice provided by the funeral director's office. You must include your relationship to the deceased and bring it to the Department (or the Undergraduate Services Office if you are in first year).

For Other Extenuating Circumstances: If you are not sure what documentation to provide, ask the Departmental Office (or the Undergraduate Services Office if you are in first year) for direction.

Note: Forged notes and certificates will be dealt with severely. To submit a forged document is a scholastic offence (see below).

H. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

1. You need to know if your instructors have a policy on late penalties, missed tests, etc. This information may be included on the course outlines. If not, ask your instructor(s).
2. **You should also be aware of attendance requirements in some courses. You can be debarred from writing the final examination if your attendance is not satisfactory.**
3. If you are in academic difficulty, check out the minimum requirements for progression in the calendar. If in doubt, see your academic counsellor.

Calendar References: Check these regulations in your 2017 Western Academic Calendar available at www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca.

Absences Due to Illness: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg117.html>
Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg118.html>
Academic Accommodations for Religious or Holy Days: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg119.html>
Course Withdrawals: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg157.html>
Examinations: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg129.html>
Scheduling of Term Assignments: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg135.html>
Scholastic Offences: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg111.html>
Student Medical Certificate: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf
Engineering Academic Regulations: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg1442.html>

Note: These instructions apply to all students registered in the Faculty of Engineering regardless of whether the courses are offered by the Faculty of Engineering or other faculties in the University.

Drop Deadlines:

First term half course (i.e. "A" or "F"):	November 5, 2017
Full courses and full-year half courses (i.e. "E", "Y" or no suffix):	November 30, 2017
Second term half or second term full course (i.e. "B" or "G"):	March 7, 2017

Contact Information:

Undergraduate Services Office:	SEB 2097	Telephone: (519) 661-2130	E-mail: engugrad@uwo.ca
Dept. of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering & Green Process Engineering:	TEB 477	Telephone: (519) 661-2131	E-mail: cbeugrad@uwo.ca
Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering:	SEB 3005	Telephone: (519) 661-2139	E-mail: civil@uwo.ca
Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Software Engineering & Mechatronics Engineering:	TEB 279	Telephone: (519) 661-3758	E-mail: eceugrad@uwo.ca
Dept. of Mechanical and Materials Engineering:	SEB 3002	Telephone: (519) 661-4122	E-mail: mmeundergraduate@uwo.ca