

**Nats 1700, Section B Internet, Computers, Information and Society,
Fall/Winter 2017-18, Lecture days: Internet - one lecture per week,
Lecture Times: N/A**

COURSE INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Course Instructor: Robert Levine
Contact Information: Phone: (905) 889-9361
E-mail: r_levine@rogers.com
Office: by request only

Note 1: It is preferred that students send their e-mail from @my.yorku.ca e-mail and not others such as yahoo, hotmail, gmail, etc....

Note 2: Response time to student e-mails is about a day, while response time to messages left on my voice mail, is as soon as I access them.

EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Traditionally, computing, which reaches as far back as the formation of human social units, deals with calculations and the tools used to perform them. Information technology, which also has its roots in early society, deals with the dissemination of information or knowledge throughout the known world. The past half century or so has seen an enormous growth in both computing and information technology, equating computing with digital computers, and information technology with print and broadcast (i.e. radio/television) and much more is expected in this, the 21st century. Yet to understand what has happened to computing and information technology and what is expected to happen to them, requires an appreciation of their development in a historical, social and scientific context. From their somewhat humble beginnings to the enormity of their impact on today's society, this course will examine computing and information technology, emphasizing the event(s) that triggered their development and evolution. Dealing first with the issue of what technology is, followed by a study of the scientific basis that gave rise to the computer, the course will then consider carefully the impact of computers and information technology on today's society, both beneficial and negative, looking both generally and, in some cases, specifically at such issues as how and why new technology has been adopted, the truths and fallacies behind its adoption, common misconceptions surrounding it, and its affect on such matters as education, privacy and security. It will then attempt to look at what is expected to happen to new technology development within this century and, where time permits, explore issues that will arise in consequence, including mastering our genetic makeup and bio-terrorism, although the direction that the class may take in the second part of the course may change depending on the class discussion and interest. While the first part of the course

will, to some degree, look at the science behind computing, the science will be fully and simply explained, and no science background is required. At times however, students will be called on to do research in furtherance of class discussion.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

There are two components to the course. The first is the assigned readings as specified in the course syllabus, supplemented by summaries of the readings and/or diagrams of material which is the subject matter of the readings. Learning outcomes for the weekly lectures will be dealt with in the course syllabus.

EVALUATION:

Grading is normally determined at the beginning of the term, often with the aid of the class. However, at this time **and subject to any change**, you may consider that it will be as follows:

- An in-class midterm test/examination worth 35% of the grade;
- A second test or optional assignment valued at 35% of the grade. There are four components to the assignment. Students may choose one of the following four components: research essay, short story, project, or experiment, any of which is related to course content.
- An in-class final test/examination or other cumulative activity worth 30% of the grade or a final examination written in the **FALL** examination period;

Major Assignment due date: If made part of grading, the nature of the assignment and due date is: **Around the beginning to 2nd week of November, 2017.**

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY: This being an internet course, unless students are travelling during the course, it is expected that students will attend campus in order to write tests and/or the final exam. Dates for these will be posted well in advance. For those students who are travelling during the course, they must contact Distance Education immediately and make the appropriate arrangements to write the test or exam as the case may be with an accredited university, college or embassy.

COURSE MATERIALS/REQUIRED READINGS FIRST SEMESTER:

FALL/WINTER 2017-18, Nats 1700, Section B, Coursepack.

COURSE MATERIALS/REQUIRED READINGS SECOND SEMESTER:

Additional readings for second semester will be posted and made available at the beginning of January 2018.

COURSE CONTENT AND FORMAT:

A syllabus setting out the weekly topics and readings will be posted on the course website under Course Syllabus within the first two weeks of class, once the final grading scheme has been determined.

MATH CONTENT:

No more than Grade 10.

COURSE POLICIES (Ensure that you read this):

1. WHERE AN ASSIGNMENT OR TEST IS MARKED BY THE COURSE DIRECTOR:

Questions and concerns should be addressed to the Course Director.

2. WHERE AN ASSIGNMENT OR TEST IS MARKED BY A TA: Questions and concerns should be addressed to the TA. A list of the email addresses of the TAs will be posted on the course website within the first two weeks of class.

3. CONDUCT DURING ASSESSMENTS/TESTS: All materials will be placed on the floor beneath the student and all writing materials, including pens, pencils, erasers, etc., will be removed from your pencil case and the pencil case will be put in the bag on the floor.

4. LATE SUBMISSIONS AND LATE PENALTIES: After the due date, three (3) marks per day will be deducted for each day that the assignment is overdue to a maximum of 5 days. An assignment not handed in within 5 days of the due date will not be accepted and a grade of zero will be given for it. For example if the submission or due date is June 1, but the assignment, essay or story is submitted on June 4, a total of 9 marks will be deducted from the overall mark for the assignment, with the result that if the mark for the assignment was 75 out of 100, the student's mark would be 66 out of 100. If the Assignment is not handed in by June 6th, it will not be accepted and the student will receive a mark of zero.

5. NON COMPLIANCE WITH ASSIGNMENT REQUIREMENTS: You must comply with *all* assignment requirements, otherwise you may be heavily penalized. For example, if double spacing is a requirement, then ensure that your paper is double spaced. Again if footnotes are required, then the paper must have footnotes, etc.... **Ten (10) marks will be deducted from the mark to be given the assignment for each non-compliance.**

6. DEFERRALS OF ASSIGNMENTS, ESSAYS OR EXAMINATIONS: Deferral of Exams/Tests/Assignments is totally within my discretion and a may not be granted. However, please be aware that I am as far away as the telephone or e-mail. Thus, in the event that you believe your circumstances are such as to require a deferral of an examination or assignment, please contact me as soon as you are aware of them or as soon as they occur. Even if you are hesitant to discuss your circumstances, call me anyways. The worst I can do is say "No" to a deferral request. **DO NOT ADVISE ME AFTER THE FACT OR DUE DATE, UNLESS WARRANTED BY THE CIRCUMSTANCES**

7. REAPPRAISAL REQUESTS: Where a student is not satisfied with a mark granted by a TA, on advising the Course Director, the Course Director will do a grade reappraisal. Where the student is still not satisfied with the Course Director's grade reappraisal, the student shall advise the Course Director and the Course Director shall make arrangements to have the subject matter of the grade reappraisal reappraised by another faculty member. **Note that reappraisal by another faculty member is final and binding on the student.**

COPYRIGHT AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY:

The University has a strict policy about the copying or reproduction of copyrighted materials. This includes, but is not limited to, copying or reproducing lecture slides, recording lectures for non-personal use (e.g. uploading to websites), uploading or posting slides, assignments and other intellectual property which is not theirs to websites. **If you are not sure, check with the University's Copyright Department.**

UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Important Sessional Dates:

(Includes sessional start and end dates, drop deadlines, and withdrawal dates)

Fall Classes Begin: Classes start **SEPTEMBER 7, 2017.**

Fall Reading Day (no classes, University open): **OCTOBER 26-29, 2017.**

Fall Classes End: **December 4, 2017.**

Fall Study Day (no classes, University open): **December 5, 2017.**

Winter Classes Begin: Classes start **JANUARY 4, 2018.**

Winter Reading Week (no classes, University open): **FEBRUARY 17-23, 2018.**

Winter Classes End: Classes end **April 6, 2018.**

Winter Study Days (no classes, University Open): **April 5, 7-8, 2018.**

Last date to add a course **without permission** of instructor: **September 20, 2017.**

Last date to add a course **with permission** of instructor: **October 18, 2017.**

Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade: **February 9, 2018.**

Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of “w” on transcript): **February 10, 2018 – April 6, 2018.**

Holidays and University Closures:

Labour Day – University closed: **September 4, 2017.**

Thanksgiving Day – University closed: **October 9, 2017.**

Winter Break – University closed: **December 23, 2018-January 2, 2018**

Family Day – University closed: **February 19, 2018**

Good Friday – University closed: **March 30, 2018**

Academic Honesty and Integrity:

Academic honesty requires that persons do not falsely claim credit for the ideas, writing or other intellectual property of others, either by presenting such works as their own or through impersonation. Similarly, academic honesty requires that persons do not cheat (attempt to gain an improper advantage in an academic evaluation), nor attempt or actually alter, suppress, falsify or fabricate any research data or results, official academic record, application or document. Finally, academic honesty requires that persons do not aid or abet others to commit an offence of academic dishonesty, including intentional acts to disrupt academic activities.

Suspected breaches of academic honesty will be investigated and charges shall be laid if reasonable and probable grounds exist.

Academic Honesty and electronic devices during assessments (e.g. exams)

- Internet capable and personal storage devices of all kinds must be turned off, including vibrate. These and any other unauthorized material must be placed under the student’s chair and should not be accessed at any point during the exam. Failure to comply with directive may be considered a break of academic honesty.
- See <http://registrar.yorku.ca/exams/tipsheet>

Please familiarize yourself with the full Senate Policy on Academic Honesty, found at <http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-honesty-senate-policy-on/>

Please also familiarize yourself with the SPARK Academic Honesty tutorial found at <https://spark.library.yorku.ca/academic-integrity-what-is-academic-integrity/>

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations and adaptations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs.

The nature and extent of accommodations shall be consistent with and supportive of the integrity of the curriculum and of the academic standards of programs or courses.

Please familiarize yourself with the full Senate Policy on Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities, found at <http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-accommodation-for-students-with-disabilities-policy/>

Note: Students should submit accommodation letters from Counseling and Disability Services (CDS) to the course instructor within the first two weeks of the course or as soon as issued.

Counseling and Disability Services - <http://cds.info.yorku.ca/>

York Accessibility Hub - <http://accessibilityhub.info.yorku.ca/>

Note: A student registered with CDS, and choosing to write with Alternate Exams, is responsible for making the appropriate writing arrangements within the timeframes outlined by Alternate Exams.

Alternate Exams - <http://altexams.students.yorku.ca/>

Religious Observance Accommodation

York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community, and making accommodations for observances of special significance to adherents.

<https://w2prod.sis.yorku.ca/Apps/WebObjects/cdm.woa/15/wo/kmHGekTpzKLX6XYKBXYc8M/0.3.4.62.0>

Note: Students who will have an academic conflict as a result of a religious observance, at any point in the term, should make the instructor aware of such at least three weeks prior to the conflict.

For conflicts occurring during an official examination period, please complete the Examination Accommodation Form available at http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/exam_accommodation.pdf and submit to your instructor at least three weeks prior to the final exam.

Student Conduct in Academic Situations

Students and instructors are expected to maintain a professional relationship characterized by courtesy and mutual respect and to refrain from actions disruptive to such a relationship. Moreover, it is the responsibility of the instructor to maintain an appropriate academic atmosphere in the classroom and the responsibility of the student to cooperate in that endeavour. Further, the instructor is the best person to decide, in the first instance, whether such an atmosphere is present in the class. A statement of the policy and procedures regarding disruptive and/or harassing behaviour by students in academic situations is available on the website of the University Secretariat (<http://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/>).

DIVISION OF NATURAL SCIENCE RESOURCES:

NATS-AID: Free peer tutoring for students enrolled in Natural Science Courses. See <http://natsci.info.yorku.ca/nats-aid/>

M-AID in NATS (Math Aid): Free math help for students enrolled in Natural Science Courses (TA tutors). See <http://natsci.info.yorku.ca/m-aid-in-nats/>

OTHER RESOURCES:

Learning Commons: The Learning Commons brings together key supports for your learning: writing, research, learning skills and career services. <http://www.library.yorku.ca/cms/learning-commons/>

goSAFE: goSAFE is a complimentary service provided to the York Community. At the Keele campus, goSAFE has two routes: North Route & South Route which will safely transport community members by vehicle from one specified hub to another on campus. goSAFE operates seven days a week, all year round, including University closures (with the exception at Glendon during the Christmas holiday closure).

Call the goSAFE office at 416-736-5454 or extension 55454 during hours of operation. Please give your name, location and destination. <http://www.yorku.ca/goSAFE/>

Mental Health and Wellness at York University: Outlines a variety of resources available to support mental health and wellness - <http://mhw.info.yorku.ca/resources/resources-at-york/students/>

Good2Talk: Post-Secondary Student 24 hour Helpline - <http://www.good2talk.ca/> 1-866-925-5454