School of Information and Physical Sciences

COMP4251: Computing Honours Part 1
Callaghan
Semester 1 - 2024

COURSE OUTLINE

OVERVIEW

Course Description

This course is the first part of the CS Honours project.

It provides preparation for completion of a supervised research project. In part 1, students carry out a preliminary literature review of the material relevant to their project, develop a research proposal and timeline and begin their research project. They summarise and discuss their proposal in an intermediate report and present a seminar.

The Honours project (part 1 and 2 together) comprises a substantial project usually involving a detailed literature review together with a theoretical and/or practical investigation of a computer science problem. Technical content will be dependent on the project undertaken.

Academic Progress Requirements

Nil

Requisites

This course is only available to students enrolled in the Bachelor of Computing (Honours) [40283] program.

Assumed Knowledge Contact Hours

Knowledge is as required for the project undertaken
Callaghan
Individual Supervision
Face to Face On Campus
1 hour(s) per week(s) for 13 week(s) starting Week 1
Contact hours are by agreement between student and supervisor.

Unit Weighting Workload

20
Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator **Callaghan**
Dr Kyle Harrison
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(02) 4055 0738
Consultation: by appointment.

Teaching Staff Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.

School Office **School of Information and Physical Sciences**
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9am-5pm (Mon-Fri)

SYLLABUS

Course Content Comprises planning and start of a substantial project usually involving a literature review together with a theoretical and/or practical investigation of a computer science problem. Technical content will be dependent on the project undertaken. The project work is embodied in a research report, and presented in a seminar. Additional instruction and assistance in report preparation and seminar preparation and delivery will be given.

Course Learning Outcomes **On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:**
1. Understand in-depth knowledge in a specific area of ICT

2. Improve communication skills

3. Improve capacity to undertake postgraduate research

Course Materials **Other Resources:**
- You will be supported by your supervisor and library support to find appropriate literature for your project. Advice around specialised software will also be provided by your supervisor.

SCHEDULE

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ASSESSMENTS

This course has 2 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Intermediate Project Report of Proposal and Literature Review	Week 13	Individual	50%	1, 2, 3
2	Presentation (seminar) of the Project Proposal and Literature Review	Before end of semester. The time and format of the presentation will be confirmed with your supervisor.	Individual	50%	1, 2, 3

Late Submissions   The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

Assessment 1 - Intermediate Project Report of Proposal and Literature Review

Assessment Type   Written Assignment

Purpose   1. Be acquainted with the steps necessary to plan a research project.
2. Give students the opportunity to carry out research-oriented activities in a systematic way and to provide students with hands-on exposure to problems in the frontier of knowledge that are relevant to academia or to industry.
3. Develop research and communication skills. This includes techniques for discipline specific literature search and the opportunity to present and discuss in written form current research issues and associated literature in project relevant areas.

Description   The aim of this assessment is to have a realistic and well-supported project proposal and plan developed.

This intermediate project report and proposal should contain:
•   Project title
•   Project definition and description
•   Literature review (at least 5-10 references)
•   Discussion of possible outcomes of the project
•   Plan for the whole project (including preliminary timeline and milestones).

Weighting   50%
Length   10-25 pages
Due Date   Week 13
Submission Method   Online
Assessment Criteria   The intermediate report will typically be marked by the project supervisor. The exact assessment criteria are determined by the project supervisor and are dependent on the topic. A representative example of marking criteria will be made available on Canvas. However, you should consult with your supervisor so you best understand how these criteria will be interpreted.
Return Method   In Person
Online
Feedback Provided   In Person
Opportunity to Reattempt   Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment.

Assessment 2 - Presentation (seminar) of the Project Proposal and Literature Review

Assessment Type   Presentation
Purpose   The intention is to supply the Honours student with feedback on the project plan and provide an opportunity for improving oral presentation skills.
Description   The oral presentation should report project topics, goals, background (literature review), results achieved so far (if any) and research plan for the whole project, including Part 2

	(COMP4261).
Weighting	50%
Length	30 mins, plus 10 mins for questions and discussion
Due Date	Before end of semester. The time and format of the presentation will be confirmed with your supervisor.
Submission Method	In Class
	Specifics of the presentation format will be provided by your supervisor.
Assessment Criteria	Marking criteria will be available on Canvas. Your supervisor may organise a practice seminar before the due date.
Return Method	In Class
Feedback Provided	In Person
Opportunity to Reattempt	Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

Communication Methods

Communication methods used in this course include:

- Canvas Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the Canvas course site.
- Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account.
- Face to Face: Communication will be provided via face to face meetings or supervision.

Course Evaluation

Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.

Oral Interviews (Vivas)

As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the Oral Examination (viva) Procedure. In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the Student Conduct Rule.

Academic Misconduct	All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35.
Adverse Circumstances	The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where: 1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or 2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system; 3. you are requesting a change of placement; or 4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement. Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at: https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236
Important Policy Information	The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/respect-at-uni/policies-and-procedures that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.

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