Fall/Winter 2011

# Research directions in computing

**Description**
Computer Science in an exciting and wide ranging discipline, many of whose topics will not be introduced in any technical depth until upper year courses (if at all). This course consists of a set of invited lectures by researchers in the department and a set of other organised events that will introduce the students to the breadth of computer science.

The course is organised around a series of invited talks by individual researchers and research groups, as well as a number of laboratory tours and other events that will introduce students to specific research directions in computer science, issues related to professionalism and professional societies, and opportunities to become engaged in different research and technical groups and events related to computer science.

Formally, the course consists of 13 one-hour lectures spread over two terms. The first lecture will be organisational in nature. The remaining 12 lectures will be invited lectures by researchers (or research groups) in computer science, representatives of specific interest groups associated with computer science (e.g., Engineers Without Borders, Canadian Information Processing Society, etc.), work-study/internship/student exchange programs, and representatives of volunteer/other organisations that seek out technically literate students as volunteers.

In addition to these 13 formal meetings, a set of other extracurricular events will also be organised including research lab tours, visits to local industrial sites (e.g., IBM), special lectures directed at specific technical problems often encountered by students (e.g., running LINUX at home), etc.

This course is offered on a pass-fail basis only.

**Instructor**
Michael Jenkin
Sherman Health Science Building #1028
Office Hours: Wednesday 3-4pm
email: jenkin@cse.yorku.ca

All emails should have CSE1001 in the subject line.

**Course meetings**
Classes will be held (roughly) every other week in CSE C W16:30-17:30. Scheduling can change with little notice. You are responsible for checking the course web page (provided via moodle) for details.

**Required text**
There is no required text for this course.

**Grading**
This course is offered on a pass-fail basis only. In order to pass you must obtain 15 points. Points can be obtained in a number of ways, one way is by attending the 13 organised course meetings. (The perceptive student will observe that it is not possible to pass the course by only attending the class meetings. Although it will be easy to fail the course if you miss the lectures.) A number of extra-curricular activities will be held throughout the year. Some of these can be used to acquire one or more points. It is your responsibility to ensure that you receive points for the various course components. Some events will have limited enrolment. As events are scheduled details will be posted on the course moodle.

Ensuring that your attendance is properly recorded is essential to passing this course. No official record of attendance -> no point for the event. For the organised course meetings your attendance will be recorded using the 'submit' command on prism. At the beginning and end of every lecture a set of keys will be distributed. (Each key is unique and can only be used once.) Suppose that the key that you got at the beginning of the lecture is A1234 and that the key that you got at the end of the lecture is B4321. Within seven days of the lecture you must log onto prism and;

- Create a file called key that contains exactly one line containing the start and end key values separated by a comma. If your keys were as above then you would create a file called key containing A1234,B4321. One way to do this would be to execute

  echo "A1234,B4321" >key

- Submit this key to me. The only way to submit the key is through the submit command on prism. The submit command takes the key you have created and the date of the lecture. If the lecture was held on September 7, 2011 (the date of the first lecture) then the submit command to execute would be to execute the command

submit -l 1001 07-09-2011 key

Roughly 10 days after each lecture the keys will be validated and the attendance grade posted on the moodle account. Invalid or repeated key components will not receive a grade.

Events outside of the lectures will have their attendance recorded using a signed attendance form. This is a form available on the moodle site. Have a responsible person at the event sign and date this form after you fill it out when you attend an event. The responsible person will be identified for each event. Forms must be returned to my mailbox in CSEB 1003 within a week of the event. (No form -> no point.) It may be prudent to keep a copy of the form in case the original becomes misplaced.

**Some words of advice**

Do not plan to attend the last possible 15 events. Events can be cancelled at the last minute, moved, have limited enrolment, etc.

Monitor the moodle site. All events, communications, etc. related to the course will be posted there. Events can appear at short notice, and vanish just as quickly. Guest speakers may have conflicts that may make cancellation unavoidable.

If you miss an event due to illness, etc., that is not a problem. Just attend other events to make up your 15 points.

It would be very silly to obtain only 14 points.

Finally, enjoy the course. The purpose of this course is to expose you to the breadth and depth of computer science at York (and elsewhere) and to provide opportunities to become involved in events beyond the normal lecture schedule.