The Australian National University
College of Engineering & Computer Science
Department of Computer Science

COMP2300/6300-2009-CourseAdmin

Course Administration

1 Preamble
This document gives a brief description of the administrative arrangements for COMP2300 and COMP6300 in 2009. Further details are given on the course web page:


2 Course Staff
The course lecturer and coordinator is Peter Strazdins. His office is CSIT N219 and his phone is 6125 5140.
Office hours will be made available from the course Web Page. Please contact the lecturer by email if you would like to make an appointment outside of office hours.

3 Textbooks
The reading brick Specification of the PeANUt Computer (unchanged since 2005), is absolutely necessary for the PeANUt module, and it is assumed that all students have access to a copy. The brick will be handed out in the week 1 lectures.
Additionally, you will find a book on the C programming language and one on computer architecture to be extremely valuable, as in the laboratories, assignments and examination it will be expected that you are familiar with material beyond that which is presented in the lecture slides. Some reading is essential in order to gain a good level of understanding of computer systems. The course assessment will be designed in order to test your understanding.
The choice of textbooks will be discussed in the first lecture. You will also find a book on C very useful for your future professional life.

4 Lectures
The COMP2300 lectures in 2009 are scheduled according to the following timetable:

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>15:00 - 16:00</td>
<td>Chem T1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>15:00 - 16:00</td>
<td>Chem T1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>14:00 - 15:00</td>
<td>Phys T</td>
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For a detailed lecture schedule please consult the COMP2300 Web Page. Slides presented in the lectures will be made available from the page one day before the lecture. You are recommend to print these and bring a copy to the lecture to annotate with your own notes.

5 Tutorial/Laboratory Laboratories
There will be 9 supervised combined tutorial/laboratory sessions, each of 2 hours duration. At this stage these labs are scheduled for weeks 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 11. There will be an unsupervised laboratory session in week 12.
For the tutorial part of the session, handouts will be provided. You will need to bring these to your session as, in ‘tutorial mode’, you may be gathered around the whiteboard and will need a hardcopy. Please also bring something to write on.

The handout for each session may include a Preparation Sheet, which contains simple exercises you will be expected to complete before the session.

The PeANUt manual should be brought to all PeANUt-related sessions.

To register for a session, go to http://cs.anu.edu.au/streams.

6 Assignments

There will be three assignments for COMP2300 in 2009.

- Assignment 1: out week 2, tentatively due week 6 (Tue noon), value ≈12%
- Assignment 2: out week 5, tentatively due week 9 (Fri noon), value ≈10%
- Assignment 3: out week 9, tentatively due week 12 (Fri noon), value ≈8%

Detailed assignment specifications will be placed on the course Web Page. Assignment extensions will only be granted in unforeseeable circumstances beyond the control of the student, and will require supporting documentation (e.g. serious illness supported with medical certificates).

From the date that your assignment marks are released electronically, you have a period of two weeks in which to question your mark. After this period your mark will be final. Release of assignment marks will be announced on the course Announcement Forum.

7 Assessment

Attendance at tute/labs is not compulsory, but you should be aware that the tute/lab sheets do contain new and examinable material and there is small attendance mark (see below).

The proposed assessment for COMP2300/6300 in 2009 will be in four parts:

1. assignments, worth 30%.
2. a tutorial/laboratory mark, worth 10%.
   This will include computer assessed laboratory exercises, plus a mark allocated by your tutor on your tutorial preparation, attendance, and participation in discussions.
3. a one hour mid-semester written examination, worth 20%. Its two questions will be independently redeemable by equivalent questions in the final exam.
   Tentative date: lecture slot in Thursday week 6
4. a two (plus one) hour final written examination, worth 40%.

These components are then added to give your final mark. This may then be scaled to give your overall course mark and grade.

Supplementary exams will be awarded only to those students with an overall course mark of between 45 and 49.

Peter Strazdins, 24/02/2009