



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE
COURSE OUTLINE

1. **Course:** CPSC 559: Introduction to Distributed Systems

Lecture Sections:

L01, TR 12:30-13:45, ST 126, Nathaly Verwaal, ICT 710, 210-8485, verwaal@cpsc.ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Website: D2L

Computer Science Department Office, ICT 602, 220-6015, cpssc@cpsc.ucalgary.ca

2. **Prerequisites:** CPSC 457

(<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/computer-science.html#3620>)

3. **Grading:** The University policy on grading and related matters is described in sections F.1 and F.2 of the online University Calendar. In determining the overall grade in the course the following weights will be used:

Project	40%
Presentation	20%
Critiques	10%
Final Exam	30%

This course **will** have a Registrar's Scheduled Final Exam.

Special Regulations affecting the Final Grade: Each of the above components will be given a letter grade using the official University grading system. The final grade will be calculated using the grade point equivalents weighted by the percentage given above and then reconverted to a final letter grade using the official University grade point equivalents. In order to obtain a final grade of C- or better, a student must achieve a C- or better on the final exam.

4. **Missed Components of Term Work:** The regulations of the Faculty of Science pertaining to this matter are found in the Faculty of Science area of the Calendar. Section 3.6. It is the student's responsibility to familiarize themselves with these regulations. See also Section E.6 of the University calendar.

5. **Scheduled Out-of-Class Activities:** REGULARLY SCHEDULED CLASSES HAVE PRECEDENCE OVER ANY OUT-OF-CLASS-TIME ACTIVITY. If you have a clash with this out-of-class activity, please inform your instructor as soon as possible so that alternative assignments can be arranged.

6. **Course Materials:**

Distributed Systems: Concepts and Design, Couloris et al. *Addison Wesley* (Required)

Online Course Components:

None.

7. **Examination Policy:** Closed book. No aids of any kind are permitted. Students should also read the Calendar, Section G, on examinations.

8. **Approved Mandatory and Optional Course Supplemental Fees:** None.

9. **Writing across the Curriculum Statement:** In this course, the quality of the student's writing in the weighted components of the course will be a factor in the evaluation of these components. See also Section E.2 of the University Calendar.

10. **Human Studies Statement:** Students will be expected to participate as subjects or participants in projects. See also Section E.5 of the University Calendar.

11. **OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS:**

- a) **Misconduct:** Academic misconduct (cheating, plagiarism, or any other form) is a very serious offense that will be dealt with rigorously in all cases. A single offence may lead to disciplinary probation or suspension or expulsion. The Faculty of Science follows a zero tolerance policy regarding dishonesty. Please read the sections of the University Calendar under Section K, Student Misconduct to inform yourself of definitions, processes and penalties.
- b) **Assembly Points:** In case of emergency during class time, be sure to FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF with the information on assembly points which can be found in each classroom and building.
- c) **Student Accommodations:** Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should contact Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities_0.pdf. Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the Associate Head of Computer Science.
- d) **Safewalk:** Campus Security will escort individuals day or night (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>). Call 403-220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phones located at most parking lot pay booths.
- e) **Freedom of Information and Privacy:** This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP). As one consequence, students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number on each subsequent page. For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>
- f) **Student Union Information:** VP Academic (403) 220-3911 suvpaca@ucalgary.ca SU Faculty Rep (403) 220-3913 science1@su.ucalgary.ca, science2@su.ucalgary.ca and science3@su.ucalgary.ca, Student Ombuds Office: (403) 220-6420 ombuds@ucalgary.ca, <http://ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>
- g) **Internet and Electronic Device Information:** You can assume that in all classes that you attend your cell phone should be turned off unless instructed otherwise. All communications with other individuals via laptop computers, cell phones or other devices connectable to the internet in not allowed during class time unless specifically permitted by the instructor. If you violate this policy you may be asked to leave the classroom. Repeated abuse may result in a charge of misconduct.
- h) **U.S.R.I.:** At the University of Calgary feedback provided by students through the Universal Student ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (www.ucalgary.ca/usri). Your responses make a difference – please participate in USRI surveys.

Department Approval _____ Date _____

Associate Dean's Approval for out of regular class-time activity: _____ Date: _____

Associate Dean's Approval for Alternate final examination arrangements: _____ Date: _____

A signed copy of this document is kept on file in the Computer Science main Office ICT 602

CPSC 559 Syllabus

Tentative Topics Covered

- Design of distributed systems: managing openness, scalability and reliability
- Interprocess communication
- Managing failure
- Synchronization and consistency

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course: students will:

- Design group communication for a distributed system that uses an appropriate communication abstraction, level of reliability and ordering of messages given the requirements of the system.
- Classify basic distributed algorithms by their function and design approach (centralized or distributed) and analyze the efficiency of these algorithms in terms of message delay and total number of messages.
- Identify different architectures for replicating data processes and services, describe scenarios where there may be inconsistencies between such replicas and suggest approaches to remove such inconsistencies.
- Describe systems where it is not possible to accomplish mutual exclusion or agreement, mechanisms used to overcome such impossibilities and the limitations of such mechanisms.
- Identify how a given distributed system could fail to provide the intended service of the system, possible approaches to improve the fault tolerance with a description of the transparency that such approaches provide.
- Implement and debug a distributed system, individually or in a team, and identify challenges inherent in developing such systems.