



COURSE OUTLINE

1. **Course:** CPSC 559, Introduction to Distributed Systems - Winter 2021

Lecture 01:

Instructor	Email	Phone	Office	Hours
Nathaly Verwaal	nmverwaa@ucalgary.ca	403 210-8485	ICT 710	By appointment

Online Delivery Details:

This course does not follow a scheduled meeting pattern.

Lecture materials are pre-recorded and made available on-line. Quizzes will test your understanding of these lecture materials and will be available for 7 days from the time materials are available. All quizzes are timed: once started you will have a set amount of time available. (50% of extra time is added for all quizzes in case any issues arise after the quiz was started.)

Participation on the course discussion board is expected from all students in the course. This participation can include posting questions, answering questions or suggesting designs and algorithms that you've found useful for the project.

The project will focus on creating a distributed system and you will create one process for the system that communicates with all other processes in the system. Some of these other processes are provided by the instructor and others are provided by other students in the course. Part of the submission for each iteration, requires you to run your process and have your process connect to the system. Some things to note about this part of the submission:

- You will have one hour to get your process started. Getting the process started should take only about a minute. Once started, it should not require any other work on your part (if it is implemented correctly). If you are not available to start your process manually during this one hour time-frame, we can show you how to write a script that will start the process for you automatically at the required time.
- Some of the communication requirements of your process may not be allowed based on the security settings of your computer. You can either
 - change the security settings on your computer, or
 - connect to the CPSC lab computers remotely using ssh. (The security setting on the lab computers will allow all required network communication.)

Support will be provided at the start of the semester to ensure you can connect to the CPSC lab computers using ssh. We won't be able to help you change security settings on your computer. If you choose to change the security settings on your own computer, rather than connect with the lab computers, be careful not to expose your computer to potential online threats.

Course Site:

D2L: CPSC 559 L01-(Winter 2021)-Introduction to Distributed Systems

Note: Students must use their U of C account for all course correspondence.

2. **Requisites:**

See section [3.5.C](#) in the Faculty of Science section of the online Calendar.

Prerequisite(s):

Computer Science 441 and 457.

3. **Grading:**

The University policy on grading and related matters is described in [F.1](#) and [F.2](#) of the online University Calendar.

In determining the overall grade in the course the following weights will be used:

Component(s)	Weighting %	Date
Project (4 iterations)	60	Jan 29, Feb 26, March 12 and April 11
Quizzes (approximately 33)	33	
Participation	7	

Each piece of work (reports, assignments, quizzes, midterm exam(s) or final examination) submitted by the student will be assigned a grade. The student's grade for each component listed above will be combined with the indicated weights to produce an overall percentage for the course, which will be used to determine the course letter grade.

The conversion between a percentage grade and letter grade is as follows.

	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D
Minimum % Required	98 %	94 %	90 %	85%	80%	75 %	70 %	65%	60%	55 %	50 %

4. Missed Components Of Term Work:

The university has suspended the requirement for students to provide evidence for absences. Please do not attend medical clinics for medical notes or Commissioners for Oaths for statutory declarations.

In the event that a student legitimately fails to submit any online assessment on time (e.g. due to illness etc...), please contact the course coordinator, or the course instructor if this course does not have a coordinator to arrange for a re-adjustment of a submission date. Absences not reported within 48 hours will not be accommodated. If an excused absence is approved, then the percentage weight of the legitimately missed assignment could also be pro-rated among the components of the course.

5. Scheduled Out-of-Class Activities:

There are no scheduled out of class activities for this course.

6. Course Materials:

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam/Camera (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Stable internet connection.

For more information please refer to the UofC [ELearning](#) online website.

7. Examination Policy:

No aids are allowed on tests or examinations.

Students should also read the Calendar, [Section G](#), on Examinations.

8. Approved Mandatory And Optional Course Supplemental Fees:

There are no mandatory or optional course supplemental fees for this course.

9. Writing Across The Curriculum Statement:

For all components of the course, in any written work, the quality of the student's writing (language, spelling, grammar, presentation etc.) can be a factor in the evaluation of the work. See also Section [E.2](#) of the University Calendar.

10. Human Studies Statement:

Students will not participate as subjects or researchers in human studies.

See also [Section E.5](#) of the University Calendar.

11. Reappraisal Of Grades:

A student wishing a reappraisal, should first attempt to review the graded work with the Course coordinator/instructor or department offering the course. Students with sufficient academic grounds may request a reappraisal. Non-academic grounds are not relevant for grade reappraisals. Students should be aware that the grade being reappraised may be raised, lowered or remain the same. See [Section I.3](#) of the University Calendar.

- a. **Term Work:** The student should present their rationale as effectively and as fully as possible to the Course coordinator/instructor within **ten business days** of either being notified about the mark, or of the item's return to the class. If the student is not satisfied with the outcome, the student shall submit the Reappraisal of Graded Term work form to the department in which the course is offered within 2 business days of receiving the decision from the instructor. The Department will arrange for a reappraisal of the work within the next ten business days. The reappraisal will only be considered if the student provides a detailed rationale that outlines where and for what reason an error is suspected. See sections [I.1](#) and [I.2](#) of the University Calendar
- b. **Final Exam:** The student shall submit the request to Enrolment Services. See [Section I.3](#) of the University Calendar.

12. Other Important Information For Students:

- a. **Mental Health** The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre, [Mental Health Services Website](#)) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website ([Mental Health](#)).
- b. **SU Wellness Services:** For more information, see www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre or call [403-210-9355](tel:403-210-9355).
- c. **Sexual Violence:** The Sexual Violence Support Advocate, Carla Bertsch, can provide confidential support and information regarding sexual violence to all members of the university community. Carla can be reached by email (svasa@ucalgary.ca) or phone at [403-220-2208](tel:403-220-2208). The complete University of Calgary policy on sexual violence can be viewed at (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>)
- d. **Misconduct:** Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity. Research integrity, ethics, and principles of conduct are key to academic integrity. Members of our campus community are required to abide by our institutional [Code of Conduct](#) and promote academic integrity in upholding the University of Calgary's reputation of excellence. Some examples of academic misconduct include but are not limited to: posting course material to online platforms or file sharing without the course instructor's consent; submitting or presenting work as if it were the student's own work; submitting or presenting work in one course which has also been submitted in another course without the instructor's permission; borrowing experimental values from others without the instructor's approval; falsification/fabrication of experimental values in a report. Please read the following to inform yourself more on academic integrity:

[Student Handbook on Academic Integrity](#)
Student Academic Misconduct [Policy](#) and [Procedure](#)
[Research Integrity Policy](#)

Additional information is available on the [Student Success Centre Academic Integrity page](#)

- e. **Academic Accommodation Policy:** 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 [procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf](#).

Students needing an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfill 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 the Department of Computer Science, Nelson Wong by email nelson@cpsc.ucalgary.ca or phone 403-210-8483. Religious accommodation requests relating to class, test

or exam scheduling or absences must be submitted no later than **14 days** prior to the date in question. See [Section E.4](#) of the University Calendar.

- f. **Freedom of Information and Privacy:** This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP). 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 [Legal Services](#) website.
- g. **Student Union Information:** [VP Academic](#), Phone: [403-220-3911](#) Email: suvpaca@ucalgary.ca. SU Faculty Rep., Phone: [403-220-3913](#) Email: sciencerep@su.ucalgary.ca. [Student Ombudsman](#), Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca.
- h. **Surveys:** At the University of Calgary, feedback through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction ([USRI](#)) survey and the Faculty of Science Teaching Feedback form provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses. Your responses make a difference - please participate in these surveys.
- i. **Copyright of Course Materials:** All course materials (including those posted on the course D2L site, a course website, or used in any teaching activity such as (but not limited to) examinations, quizzes, assignments, laboratory manuals, lecture slides or lecture materials and other course notes) are protected by law. These materials are for the sole use of students registered in this course and must not be redistributed. Sharing these materials with anyone else would be a breach of the terms and conditions governing student access to D2L, as well as a violation of the copyright in these materials, and may be pursued as a case of student academic or [non-academic misconduct](#), in addition to any other remedies available at law.

Course Outcomes:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Implement and debug a distributed system, individually or in a team, and identify challenges inherent in developing such systems.

Electronically Approved - Jan 05 2021 15:56

Department Approval

Electronically Approved - Jan 05 2021 16:39

Associate Dean's Approval