COMP1521 21T3 — Course Introduction

https://www.cse.unsw.edu.au/~cs1521/21T3/

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COMP1521 Student Background

Students in this course have (mostly) completed:

- COMP1511 or COMP1911

Everyone has learned *fundamental C programming*.

COMP1511 also studied *linked lists*, *ADTs* ...
since not everyone has seen these, we won't use them

For this week's tuts and labs:

- review/strengthen assumed C knowledge

Course Goals

COMP1511/1911 ...

- gets you thinking like a *programmer*
- solving problems by developing programs
- expressing your solution in the C language

COMP1521 ...

- gets you thinking like a *systems programmer*
- with a deep understanding of run-time behaviour
- and better able to reason about your C programs

COMP1511/1911 vs COMP1521

COMP1511/1911 ...

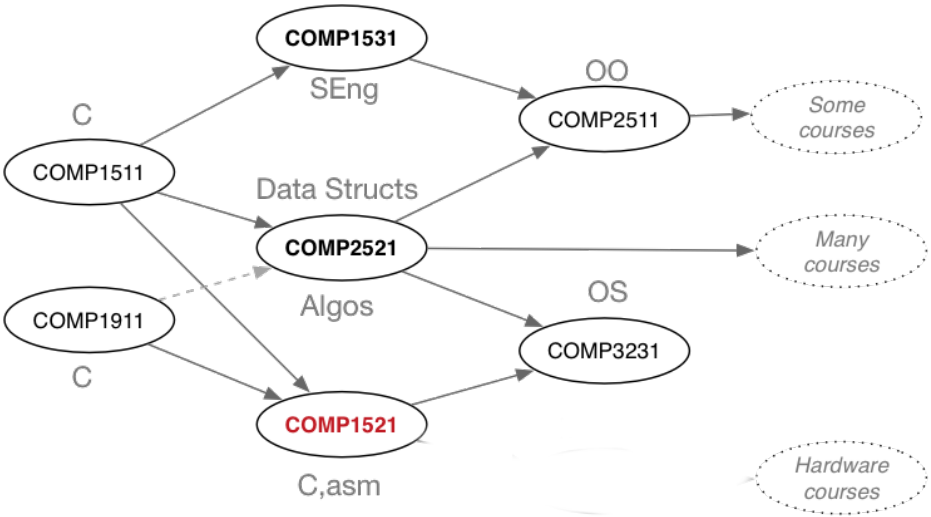
COMP1511/1911 vs COMP1521

COMP1521 ...

COMP1511/1911 vs COMP1521

or maybe ...

Course Context



Themes

Major themes ...

1. software components of modern computer systems
2. how computer represent data including integers & floats
3. how C programs execute (at the machine level)
4. how to write (MIPS) assembly language
5. how operating systems are structured
6. Unix/Linux system-level programming particular file operations
7. introduction to processes, thread and concurrency

Goal: you are able to understand execution of software in detail.

Textbook

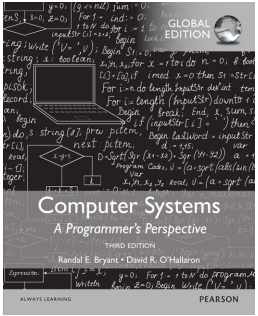
There is no prescribed textbook for COMP1521.

Recommended reference ...

Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective, Bryant and O'Hallaron

- covers most topics, and quite well
- but uses a different machine code

Available in UNSW Bookshop



Textbook

There is no prescribed textbook for COMP1521.

Material has been drawn from

- *Introduction to Computing Systems:*
  from bits and gates to C and beyond,
  Patt and Patel
- *The Elements of Computer Systems:*
  Building a modern computer system from first principles,
  Nisan and Schocken
- COMP2121 Course Web Site, Parameswaran and Guo

Always give credit to your sources!

Systems and Tools

Prac work based on *Linux* tools

- all tools available on the *CSE lab machines*
- can use *VLAB* to connect to CSE from home

Compilers: `dcc` on CSE machines (clang or gcc elsewhere)

Assembly language: MIPS? on `spim`, `qtspim` & `mipsy`

Use your own favourite text editor

Other tools: `make`, `man`, `bc -l` or `python`

Learn to love the *shell* and command-line ... very useful!

Lectures

- Tuesday, 10:00—12:00; Wednesday, 12:00—14:00;
  delivered via YouTube
  - you will have email about how to access the event
  - feel free to ask questions via chat
  - lectures recorded and linked from course home page.
- present a brief overview of theory
- focus on practical demonstrations of coding
- demonstrate problem-solving (testing, debugging)
- lecture slides available on the web before lecture.

Tut-labs

- COMP1521 has 3 hour tut-labs starting week 1
- these will be online delivered via Blackboard Collaborate
- UNSW hasn't final decision but little chance we can see you on campus in 21T3

Tutorials

To get the best out of tutorials ...

- attempt the problems yourself beforehand
- ask if you don't understand a question or how to solve it
- Do *not* keep quiet in tutorials ... talk, discuss, ...
- Your tutor may ask for your attempt to start a discussion.

Lab Classes

Each tutorial is followed by a two-hour lab class.

- Several exercises, mostly small coding tasks
- Build skills needed for assignments, exam
- Done individually
- Submitted via `give`, before Monday 21:00
- Automarked (with partial marks) — 15% of final mark
- Labs may include challenge exercises ...
  - may be silly, confusing, or impossibly difficult
  - almost full marks (95+%) possible
    without completing any challenge exercises

Weekly Tests

From week 3, weekly tests:

- immediate reality-check on your progress.
- done in your own time under self-enforced exam conditions.
- time limit of 1 hour
  - can keep working after hour for 50% of mark
- automarked (with partial marks)
- best 6 of 8 tests contribute 10% of final mark
- any violation of test conditions $\Rightarrow$ zero for whole component

Assignments

- Ass1: Assembly Language, weeks 4–7, 15%
- Ass2: C Programming, weeks 7–10, 15%
- Assignments give you experience with larger programming problems than lab exercises
- Assignments will be carried out individually.
- They *always* take longer than you expect.
- Don't leave them to the last minute.
- There are late penalties applied to maximum marks, typically 2%/hour

Code of Conduct

CSE offers an inclusive learning environment for all students.

In anything connected to UNSW, including social media,
these things are student misconduct and will not be tolerated:

- racist/sexist/offensive language or images
- sexually inappropriate behaviour
- bullying, harassing or aggressive behaviour
- invasion of privacy

Show respect to your fellow students and the course staff

Plagiarism

Cheating of any kind constitutes academic misconduct and carries a range of penalties.
Please read course intro for details.

Examples of inappropriate conduct:

- groupwork on individual assignments (discussion OK)
- allowing another student to copy your work
- getting your hacker cousin to code for you
- purchasing a solution to the assignment

Plagiarism

- Labs, tests, assignments must be entirely your own work.
- You can not work on assignments as a pair or group.
- Plagiarism will be checked for and *penalized*.
- Plagiarism may result in suspension from UNSW.
- Scholarship students may lose scholarship.
- International students may lose visa.
- Supplying your work to any another person may result in loss of all your marks for the lab/assignment.

Final Exam

- online practical exam (you complete from home)
- limited on-line language documentation available
- may be some multiple-choice/short-answer questions, similar to tut questions.
- most questions will ask you to read C or assembler
- most marks for questions which ask you to write C or assembler
- also may ask you to answer written questions
- you must score 18+/45 on the final exam to pass course

Assessment

- 15% Labs
- 10% Weekly Programming Tests
- 15% Assignment 1 — due week 7
- 15% Assignment 2 — due week 10
- 45% Final Exam

Above marks may be scaled to ensure an appropriate distribution

To pass, you must:

- score 50/100 overall
- score 18/45 on final exam

For example:

55/100 overall, 17/45 on final exam $\Rightarrow$ **55 UF** not 55 PS

How to Pass this Course

- coding is a *skill* that improves with practice
- the more you practise, the easier you will find assignments/exams
- do the lab exercises
- do the assignments *yourself*
- practise programming outside classes
- treat extra tutorial questions like a mini prac exam

Assumed Knowledge

Assumed knowledge —

- design an algorithmic solution
- describe your solution in C code, using ...
  - variables, assignment, tests (==, !, <=, &&, etc)
  - `if`, `while`, `for`, `break`, `scanf()`, `printf()`
  - functions, `return`, prototypes, `*.h`, `*.c`
  - arrays, structs, pointers, `malloc()`, `free()`

Not assumed knowledge —

- linked structures, file operations, ADTs, sorting,
- *recursion*, *bit operations*