COMP1000: Web, Spreadsheets & Databases

Teaching Period 1 2013

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If you are looking at a printout of this web document, and want to access the links, or if you want a more printer-friendly version, go to http://www.cse.unsw.edu.au/~cs1000/intro-13s1.html

Course Staff

Contact Details

Staff member	A/Prof. Bill Wilson Coordinator	Brendan Leo, Weiren Yu Lab demonstrators
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Phone	9385 6876	TBA
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Appearance		

* all email addresses are followed by @cse.unsw.edu.au

Consultations

	Bill Wilson
Consults	K17-405 2-3pm Mon
Exceptions	Check here before coming to a consultation in case I have had to postpone it.
Pre-exam Consultations	Wed 26 June: 11am-1pm Fri 28 June: 2-4 pm Mon 01 July: 9-11 am

If you can't make it to our scheduled consultations - e.g. because they clash with another of your classes - then please contact us by phone or email for an appointment.
Consultation times may have to be changed in certain circumstances.
It is best **not** to try to contact the lecturer by e-mailing queries to the cs1000 account; mailing to billw (see full email address above) is likely to be more reliable. *Note that other CSE courses may have different requirements for contacting staff.*

Contacting Staff in CSE

We don't mind if you use non-UNSW email accounts for communicating with CSE for academic purposes but:

- you should make sure that you regularly read email from CSE. By default this is redirected to your UNSW zMail account.

and

- you **must** include your student ID as part of any message you send to CSE staff from your external email account (messages not containing such an ID may not be answered, particularly if we cannot identify you) see next dotpoint;

- in some cases we may be obliged by privacy legislation to reply to your UNSW e-mail account;

How We contact You

We assume that all students read email from CSE regularly (e.g. daily); failing to read email will not be accepted as an excuse for not doing something you were supposed to in COMP1000.

We post most general news items on the class home page.

Course Details

Units of credit

COMP1000 earns you 6 Units of Credit. This signifies 25% of a full-time study load for one semester, and involves 12 weeks × 3 hours/week of lectures plus 12 × 2-hour labs.

Lectures and Laboratory Classes

The class times are:

Session 1, 2013	Day	Time	Location	Weeks	Staff
Lecture	Wednesday	09:00-12:00	CLB 4	1-12	Bill
T09A	Tuesday	09:00-11:00	Pipe Lab	2-5, 6-13	Weiren
T11A	Tuesday	11:00-13:00	Pipe Lab	2-5, 6-13	Bill
H09A	Thursday	09:00-11:00	Pipe Lab	1-6, 8-13	Brendan
H11A	Thursday	11:00-13:00	Pipe Lab	1-6, 8-13	Weiren
F09A	Friday	11:00-13:00	Pipe Lab	1-3, 5-13	Weiren
F11A	Friday	11:00-13:00	Pipe Lab	1-3, 5-13	Weiren

Notice that the labs start in week 1 for Thu and Fri lab groups, but in week 2 for the Tue lab groups. Map of CSE Labs

Labs will become a week out of step for a few weeks due to public holidays falling on Friday of week 4 (Good Friday) and Thursday of week 7 (Anzac Day). The table below is intended to clarify this:

Lab Class Schedule for COMP1000 2013 semester 1
Corrected

Week	1	2	3	4	break	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
T09A, T11A	no lab	lab 1	lab 2	lab 3	no lab	lab 4	lab 5	lab 6	lab 7	lab 8	lab 9	lab 10	lab 11	lab 12
H09A, H11A	lab 1	lab 2	lab 3	lab 4	no lab	lab 5	lab 6	no lab	lab 7	lab 8	lab 9	lab 10	lab 11	lab 12
F09A, F11A	lab 1	lab 2	lab 3	no lab	no lab	lab 4	lab 5	lab 6	lab 7	lab 8	lab 9	lab 10	lab 11	lab 12

Lecture Attendance

If you do not attend a lecture, then it is your responsibility to discover any announcements and/or supplemental information provided in that lecture. Lectures introduce you to the concepts covered by this subject, provide motivating examples to help you understand them, and demonstrate skills and processes. You may not understand the material completely simply by listening in lectures. You should also:

- review the lecture material after the lecture;
- discuss the material with fellow students if possible, e.g. in a study group;
- read up on the topics covered in each lecture;
- complete relevant labs, assignments and exercises, if any;
- consider exploring the topic on-line by experimenting with the ideas discussed in lectures;
- attend a consultation session (or phone or email) if you still don't understand the material

Course Aims

The UNSW Handbook description of COMP1000 can be found here. The world-wide web (www) is a part of the internet. Spreadsheets and databases form important components of the tools and frameworks in modern technology that students can use in their studies and future careers. This course aims to explain in straightforward terms the concepts underlying www, spreadsheets and databases and their advantages, so that students can exploit them effectively. At the end of this course, students should acquire the skills to design and build their own web pages, spreadsheet applications using Microsoft Excel, and database applications using Microsoft Access. Students should also have an enhanced capacity to transfer these skills to other spreadsheet and database packages

Last year's teaching materials

Link to web pages for last year's version of COMP1000: 2012s1 COMP1000 web pages.
Note that there was a different lecturer last year, and that the course was then based on Access 2007 and Office 2007.

Student Learning Outcomes

After completing COMP1000, students should

- have an informal and yet technically sound knowledge of the fundamentals of the www, and be able to build their own simple web sites, and understand how they work.
- properly understand the differences between spreadsheets and databases and when it is appropriate to use one rather than the other;
- understand the computational concepts that underlie modern spreadsheet and database applications; and,
- be able to design and implement sophisticated spreadsheet and database applications.

Assumed Knowledge

COMP1000 is intended for students with not prior tertiary study of computer science. Many, perhaps most, students who take COMP1000 do so in part to meet the UNSW General Education requirement. As COMP1000 is offered by the Faculty of Engineering, Engineering students are not able to count COMP1000 towards their General Education requirement.

Pre-requisite: None.

Teaching Rationale

See aspects of the section titled Resources for Students.

Teaching Strategies

1. **Lectures** provide a detailed description of the material covered by the course, in an environment that provides a chance to ask questions and listen to the answers to other students' questions. Because the lecturer can see the students' reactions, the lecturer can gauge their level of understanding, and expand on technical material that seems to need further explanation;
2. **Textbooks and reference books** provide supplementary material, and/or a slightly different point of view on the technical material. They also have exercises, describing step-by-step how to perform tasks in Excel and Access.
3. **Programming laboratories** provide an opportunity to practise the skills being learned in lectures. In computing particularly, learning requires doing.
4. **Assignments** provide:
    - a chance to test and strengthen your understanding of lecture material by putting it into practice in a reasonably sustained project.
    - practice for skills that may be tested in the final examination.
    - A **sample examination** will give students a chance to test themselves on the material of the course in a format similar to that of the final examination;
    - **Consultation sessions** give students an opportunity to ask the lecturers, one-on-one, specific questions about any of the course material that they might be uncertain about;
    - **Other students** - your classmates - are there to help you, too. Because they have just gone through the same learning processes as you, on the material of COMP1000, they are in a way best placed to know what the difficulties are, and explain them. By explaining them, they too will benefit, by reinforcing their own learning. The only limit on this is in relation to the programming assignments: you can get ideas for the programming assignments from other students, but you must write the program yourself (see plagiarism).
      Forming a study group with fellow COMP1000 students may be a good way to do this. COMP1000 students are a reasonably diverse group, including students enrolled in programs in Commerce, Built Environment, Science, Study Abroad students, and more. Consider whether to form a group students in a similar program or in a quite different program - both options have something to recommend them.
    - The **final examination**: nobody I know enjoys examinations (either sitting them or marking them) but they do provide a focus and a deadline to make sure you revise the material covered in the course. Revision can be an important part of learning.

Assessment

Assessment Information

The assessment for this subject will consist of:

- laboratory class performance (30%)
- mid-semester test in a lecture slot in week 7 (20%)
- 2 hour final exam (50%)

It will be necessary to pass both the lab-based assessment and the exam-based assessment in order to pass COMP1000.

Criteria by which lab marks will be assigned

These are explained in each lab specification.

Procedure for submitting labs

This is explained in each lab specification. You may be asked to submit a lab electronically, or the lab may be marked on the spot by the lab demonstrator. There are 12 weeks in which labs are held. The first lab will include a simple practice assessment task which will not count towards your final mark. The remaining 10 labs *will* count towards your final mark. The marks for your best 10 labs (out of 12) will be used to determine your overall lab performance mark. The material covered in lab classes may also be tested in the final exam.

Policy on Late Submission

Late submission of labs is not permitted. If you miss a lab through illness or misadventure, you can either rely on the fact that only the best 10 labs count for your lab performance mark, or you can submit a request for special consideration, with documentation in the form of a medical certificate or other appropriate evidence, via the UNSW process for special consideration.

Rationale for Each Lab Assessment

See section on Relationship between objectives and assessment.

Relationship between objectives and assessment

Each lab class develops skills in the topics covered in recent lectures, and the assessment for the lab is designed to check that you have indeed developed these skills.

The mid-session test is designed to provide students with feedback on their performance on the topics covered in the first part of the course. It is planned to hold the test in part of the lecture time in week 7, but probably located in a lab.

The final exam tests students on the learning objectives that are not covered in the programming assignments: see below for more details.

Laboratory Classes

When available, the instructions for each lab will be accessible via the menu on the class web page.

Labs must be completed during your 2-hour lab slot.

However, you may use the CSE labs at other times, e.g. for practice. Try to avoid other formal class times. When other classes are scheduled for the lab, you may need to ask the tutor whether you can use one of the computers, and you will need to work silently.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as "using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own". UNSW and CSE treat plagiarism as academic misconduct, which means that it carries penalties as severe as being excluded from further study at UNSW. There are several on-line sources to help you understand what plagiarism is and how it is dealt with at UNSW:

- Learning Centre: Plagiarism and Academic Integrity
- MyUNSW: Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct
- CSE: Addendum to UNSW Plagiarism Guidelines
- CSE: Yellow Form (whose terms you agree to when you get your CSE computing account and login)

Make sure that you read and understand these. Ignorance is not accepted as an excuse for plagiarism.

Resources for Students

Course Resource List

Details are below for many of these - follow the links:

- Text Book. The textbooks provide detailed reference material on functionality available Access and Excel.
- The reference books provide further detail.
- Lecture Notes can be accessed, as they become available The lectures provide a guide to, and exposition of, the course material. The lecture notes provide a fairly comprehensive summary of what is said in the lectures, additional comments may be made in lectures that are not covered in the lecture notes, *and you are responsible for finding out about anything extra that was said in lectures, if you happen to miss the lecture.*
  At least some of the lectures should be available on Lectopia after they have been delivered.
- Laboratory Classes. A theoretical understanding of the material is not enough: to get a firm hold on the course material, you need hands-on experience. The lab classes provide this.
- Your lab computer (or your own computer): experimentation with Excel, Access, etc. is a good way to learn, and is perhaps the *only* way to consolidate what you have learned.
- Your fellow students - get to know them and talk to them - because they, like you, are committed to learning about

web, spreadsheets and databases, they can help you to learn, and, by doing so, they will help clarify concepts for themselves. Just remember to stay on the right side of the plagiarism rules, when discussing assignments.
- The class forum - which potentially has contributions from both staff and students is accessible via the course web page;
- Staff consultation sessions
- The UNSW Library - go and find what it has to offer!
- ... and of course there's the web :-)

Map of CSE Laboratory locations

Text Books

In 2013s1, the *text* books for this course will change to newer editions:

- Text book: Grauer, Mulbery, Poatsy: *Microsoft Office Excel 2010 Introductory.* Pearson Education, 2011. Four Excel chapters, about 300 pages.
- Text book: Grauer, Mast, Poatsy: *Microsoft Office Access 2010 Introductory.* Pearson Education, 2011. Four Access chapters, about 300 pages.

Note that, unfortunately, second-hand copies are likely to be the Access 2007 and Excel 2007 versions. The new edition should be available in the UNSW Bookshop by start of semester as a shrink-wrapped 'value pack' containing both books. (Added in O-week: the UNSW Bookshop seems to be pricing the 'value pack' at about $130.)

Recommended Reference Books

Recommended books for the course include:

- Recommended*: Grauer, Mulbery, Poatsy: *Microsoft Office Excel 2010 Comprehensive.* Pearson Education, 2011. Eleven Excel chapters: about 650 pages.
- Recommended*: Grauer, Poatsy, Mast, Hogan: *Microsoft Office Access 2010 Comprehensive.* Pearson Education, 2011. Ten Access chapters: about 635 pages.
- Recommended: Lehnert, Kopec: *Web 101* (3rd edition). Pearson Education, 2007.

* Be aware that the Comprehensive edition is a superset of the Introductory edition for both of the Grauer et al. books. In more detail, the content of the Introductory edition consists of the "Office Fundamentals and File Management" chapter, plus the first four chapters of Excel/Access material. So it doesn't make much sense to have both versions. Of course, the Comprehensive editions are more expensive. However, they *are* more comprehensive. And heavier...

Software

You can use Access and Excel in the CSE workstation laboratories (where you will be running them within Windows XP running under VMWare Fusion, see above). In fact, you will have to use these versions in your lab classes. Being able to run Microsoft Office software on a home computer is obviously an advantage, though. If you do work on your home computer, be aware that there may exist subtle differences between different versions of Office 2010. The versions running in the School laboratories are definitive for the purposes of assessment. That is, if your Excel or Access document works at home but not in the School labs, then for the purposes of assessment, it doesn't work. :-(

Mac Users: There is a 2011 (Mac OSX) version of Excel but not of Access. If you have a Macintosh and want to use Access, your best course of action appears be to obtain one of the multi-boot applications for the Mac, such as Boot Camp, Parallels, or VMWare Fusion, then install some version of Windows on this, then install the Windows version of Office 2010 inside this.

There are definitely differences between Mac Excel 2011 and Windows Excel 2010 - see warning in the first paragraph of this Software section.

School of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) Laboratory Opening Hours. The COMP1000 lab classes run in the Pipe lab, which is located in the Mechanical Engineering Building (ground level of the link building between Mech Eng and CSE).

Course Evaluation and Development

COMP1000 is evaluated by survey using the CATEI system.

The survey includes stock questions asked of all comparable courses, so that it is possible to compare the delivery of COMP1000 with other relevant UNSW courses, and also a space for free-format comments. You cannot be identified from your survey response, unless you deliberately include identifying information in your free-format comments.

The completed survey forms are analysed statistically by someone independent of the delivery, and the results, including the free-format comments, are made available to staff involved in the course *after* grades have been reported and released.

The comments and statistics reported are used to improve the course, and the lecturer is required to summarise the survey results for the Head of School and Associate Dean Academic.

Other Matters

- Students enrolled in COMP1000 are expected to attend all classes
- The use of School of Computer Science and Engineering computing laboratories is subject to rules described in the Yellow Form, which you acknowledge (electronic) receipt of when you receive your computing account. The Yellow Form also outlines what to do in case of illness or misadventure that affects your assessment, and supplementary examinations procedures within the School of Computer Science and Engineering.
- Occupational Health and Safety, and Ergonomics (safe use of computers). To find out about UNSW policies in these areas, go to the Yellow form section on OH&S, which has links to the latest edition of these policies. The most immediate area of concern for CSE students is ergonomics and repetitive strain injury. See the CSE OHS & Ergonomics page.
- UNSW Equity and Diversity Policy Statement
  UNSW Student Equity and Disabilities Unit

UNSW's CRICOS Provider No. is 000098G