Introduction To CPSC 409

James Tam

Pictures: All courtesy of James Tam

James Tam

Contact Information (James Tam)

- Contact Information (James Tam)
  - Office: ICT 707 (Memory aid: "Just like the airplane")
  - Distance learning office:
    - A Zoom link
  - Email: tam@ucalgary.ca
  - Since I teach more than one course and to make it easier to flag your emails include the course name and number in the subject line of the email 'CPSC 409'
- Office hours (James Tam)
  - Monday: 11:00 – 11:50 AM
  - Tuesday: 2:00 – 2:50 PM
  - Appointments possible at other days/times (subject to availability)
  - Dropping by outside of office hours without prior notice is "hit and miss"

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Course Resources

- Recommended but not required:
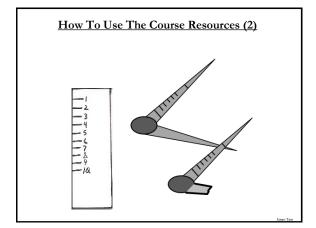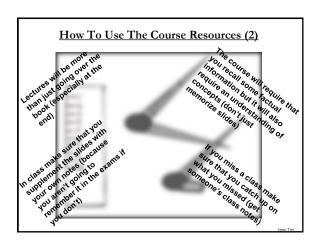 - "A History of Computing Technology" by Michael R. Williams. (IEEE)

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How To Use The Course Resources

- They are provided to support and supplement this class.

- Neither the course notes nor the text book are meant as a substitute for regular class attendance.

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How To Use The Course Resources (2)

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How To Use The Course Resources (2)

Lectures will be more than just going over the book (especially at the end)

In class make sure that you supplement the slides with your own notes (because you aren't going to remember it in the exams if you don't)

The course will require that you recall some factual information but it will also require an understanding of concepts (don't just memorize slides)

If you miss a class make sure that you catch up on what you missed (get someone's class notes)

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Approach To Lectures & Exams: Dates

- Important event, remembering exact dates can be tricky
  - September 1, 1939

  - September, 1931
  - December, 1941

- What you should be able to do in this class is have an idea of when events occurred.
  - World War I < World War II
  - Korean conflict > World War II
  - You should at least know the decade of when events occurred, inventions were created e.g. World War I occurred during the 1910s (it was actually 1914 – 1918) although your focus should be events related to computer history and the people that were a part of that history.
    - FYI: I count years using the commonly used approach (0 – 9) so referring to a decade such as the 80s means (1980 – 1989).

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Evaluation For This Course

- Exams held during normal class time
  - Examination #1: **Friday Oct 16, 2:00 – 4:00 PM** TBA (Worth 33% of the term mark)
  - Examination #2: **Friday Nov 20, 2:00 – 4:00 PM** TBA(Worth 33% of the term mark)

- Registrar scheduled exam (it's actually a midterm that occurs at the end rather than a regular final)
  - Examination #3: **TBA** (Worth 34% of the term mark)

- Due to the size of the class (almost tripled with no TA funding for marking help) the bulk of the examinations will consist of multiple choice questions which may be supplemented by non-multiple choice questions.

- Examinations will be based on lecture material which will be structured around but not limited to the course notes.
  - You can be tested on what is covered during the scheduled lecture time.

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Determining The Term Grade

- Examinations will be awarded a grade point (e.g. `3.0, 3.1, 3.2`...) and multiplied by the weight.
- The weighted grade points will then be summed in order to determine the course grade point.
  - E.g. term GPA = (4.0*0.33) + (3.0*0.33) + (3.5*0.34)
    = 1.32 + 0.99 + 1.19
    = 3.5

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GPA To Letter Cutoffs

Official UC cutoffs

Official university cut-offs	Letter	Term GPA
4.3 and above	A+	4
4 to less than 4.3	A	4
3.7 to less than 4	A-	3.7
3.3 to less than 3.7	B+	3.3
3 to less than 3.3	B	3.0
2.7 to less than 3	B-	2.7
2.3 to less than 2.7	C+	2.3
2 to less than 2.3	C	2.0
1.7 to less than 2	C-	1.7
1.3 to less than 1.7	D+	1.3
1 to less than 1.3	D	1.0
0 to less than 1	F	0

The Tam cutoffs

Tam cut-offs	Letter
4.15 and above	A+
3.85 to less than 4.15	A
3.5 to less than 3.85	A-
3.15 to less than 3.5	B+
2.85 to less than 3.15	B
2.5 to less than 2.85	B-
2.15 to less than 2.5	C+
1.85 to less than 2.15	C
1.5 to less than 1.85	C-
1.15 to less than 1.5	D+
0.7 to less than 1.15	D
0 to less than 0.7	F

Because the cutoffs are significantly more generous than the official cutoffs your term letter grade won't be adjusted upward regardless of how close your term GPA is to the cutoff for the next letter.

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Approach To Lectures: Factual Information

- Knowing facts is an important component of the course
  - E.g., Tim Berners Lee was the inventor of the World Wide Web

- But this course doesn't just consist of memorizing information:
  - Sometimes an understanding of concepts and technology will be taught and evaluated
  - E.g., Explain how the finger reckoning method can be used to multiply any two numbers between 6 and 9.

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Videos

- Along with in-class demonstrations videos will be used to illustrate how different technologies work and flesh out the biographies.
- The material in the videos will overlap with concepts in lecture but examinations won't cover information unique to a video.

Due to the possibility of copyright issues, the use of videos will be significantly more limited for the remote learning version of this course.

James Tam

The Tam "House Rules"

- I will endeavor to keep the lecture within the prescribed time boundaries

- You won't pack up and end before time is up

The Tam "House Rules"

- No recordings/captures without permission during class please

- (Your learning tends to increase with additional levels of engagement).

The Tam "House Rules"

- Quiet whispering is OK…

…but make sure if it is *quiet*. If it's loud enough for me to hear then it's likely that others are being disturbed by the noise as well.

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