



CPSC 409 - HISTORY OF COMPUTATION - FALL 2025

COURSE OUTLINE

The University of Calgary, located in the heart of Southern Alberta, both acknowledges and pays tribute to the traditional territories of the peoples of Treaty 7, which include the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprised of the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta (Districts 5 and 6).

A. Course Information

1. Course Coordinator(s)

Not Applicable

Lecture

2. Section(s)

Lecture 01 : MWF 16:00 - 16:50 - Online

Instructor	Email	Phone	Office	Student/Office Hours
Office time James Tam	tam@ucalgary.ca	403 210-9455	VIA ZOOM LINK	Monday and Tuesday 2:30 - 3:00 PM

Lab and Tutorial

3. Sections

There are no lab or tutorial sections scheduled for this course.

4. Scheduled Out-Of-Class Activities

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

Additional Course Delivery

5. Details

Course Site &

6. Materials

D2L: CPSC 409 L01-(Winter 2025)-History Of Computation with links to the official course website: <https://cspages.ucalgary.ca/~tam/2025/409F/>

Required Textbook(s):

Michael R. Williams, *A History of Computing Technology*. Wiley-IEEE Computer Society Pr; 2 edition (April 10 1997).

Technology:

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.

Approved Mandatory & Optional Course Supplemental

7. Fees

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

8. Requisites

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

Prerequisite(s):

Computer Science 355.

Course Learning

9. Outcomes

- Describe the basic operations or functions of computational tools or devices from the past,
- Specify the significance of these devices/tools and whenever applicable students will learn how the technologies and events affects the technologies of today,
- Indicate the approximate date or time period that devices were designed, completed or put into actual usage (depending upon the device or tool),
- Describe the events leading to the development of the Internet as well as major milestones since its creation,
- List the major players involved in web searches and how searching for information has changed over time,
- List the major hardware and software houses of the microcomputer era and describe their contributions,
- List some of the most influential or outstanding computer/video games and describe how games have changed over time,
- Describe some of the methods computer interaction employed in the past.

B. Assessment and Evaluation Information

1. Assessment Components

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	Weight	Due Date	Modality	Location
Midterm 1	33.33%	Sep 26 2025 at 04:00 pm (50 Minutes)	online	Remote via Zoom
Midterm 2	33.33%	Oct 31 2025 at 04:00 pm (50 Minutes)	online	Remote via Zoom
Registrar Scheduled Final Exam	33.34%	Final Exams Schedule	online	Final Exams Schedule

Each of the above components will be given a letter grade using the official university grading system (see [section F.1.1](#)). The final grade will be calculated using the grade point equivalents weighted by the percentages given above and then converted to a final letter grade using the official university grade point equivalents.

[The Final Examination Schedule](#) will be published by the Registrar's Office approximately one month after the start of the term.

Assessment &

2. Grading

Reappraisal of Graded Term Work and Final Grades:

See [Section I](#) of the University Calendar and <https://science.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate/program-advising/grade-reappraisals-and-appeals>.

Examination

3. Policy

Exams are open book. Resources that can be used include: the online lecture notes created by the course instructor, any lecture videos provided with the course resources, the recommended course text book (as well as the external resources specifically recommended in the course notes). Also you can use any notes that you have created yourself ("in class lecture notes"). You should not be using other resources (online or non-online). One example resource (but not the only one) that you should not use for examinations are A.I. tools such as ChatGPT.

See also [Section G](#) of the Calendar, on Academic Assessments and Examinations.

Missed Components of Term

4. Work

If you miss any of the 3 examinations, with the approval of the course instructor (and the receipt of the appropriate documentation), then the grade will be determined by remaining exams. The weight can only be redistributed for one missed examination.

See also Sections [G2.3](#) and [M.1.1](#) of the Calendar, on Absence from In Course Assessments and Supporting Documentation for Absences.

C. Course Policies & Procedures

Equity Diversity &

1. Inclusion

The University of Calgary is committed to creating an equitable, diverse and inclusive campus, and condemns harm and discrimination of any form. We value all persons regardless of their race, gender, ethnicity, age, LGBTQIA2S+ identity and expression, disability, religion, spirituality, and socioeconomic status. The Faculty of Science strives to extend these values in every aspect of our courses, research, and teachings to better promote academic excellence and foster belonging for all.

2. Course Communication

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

Academic Integrity and

3. 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 Policy](#) and [Procedure](#) for Student Academic Misconduct
[Faculty of Science Academic Misconduct Process](#)
[Research Integrity Policy](#)

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

Acceptable & Prohibited Tools and

4. Resources

Aside from the resources listed in the 'Assessments' section you should not be using other resources (online or non-online). One example resource (but not the only one) that you should not use for examinations are A.I. tools such as ChatGPT.

Writing Across the

5. Curriculum

Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, members of faculty can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the [Writing Support](#), part of the [Student Success Centre](#), can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance. See also [Section E.2](#) of the University Calendar.

Academic

6. Accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Accommodation-Policy.pdf>

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.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, by filling out the [Request for Accommodation in Academic Courses Form](#) and sending by email to science@ucalgary.ca preferably 10 business days before the due date of an assessment or scheduled absence.

Instructor Intellectual

7. Property.

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright ([ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy](https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy)) and requirements of the copyright act (laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Recording of

8. Lecture

Audio recording of lectures, other than where an audio recording is an accommodation, shall be permitted for individual private study only at the discretion of the instructor. For any other use, whether by duplication, transcription, publication, sale or transfer of recordings, written approval must be obtained from the instructor for the specific use proposed. Any use other than that described above constitutes academic misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion. For more information, see [Section E.6](#) Recording of Lectures of the University Calendar.

Freedom of Information &

9. Privacy

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA). 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.

Human & Living Organism Studies

10. Statements

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

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

D. Copyright Legislation

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.

E. Support & Resources

Student well-being and safety resources that are not course-specific can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website:
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>

Electronically Approved - Aug 29 2025 13:05

Department Approval