Memorial University of Newfoundland
Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science

ENGI 980A/B - Computer Engineering Project
Spring Fall 2009

Course Coordinator: Theodore Norvell
Office: EN-3064, Phone: 737-8962
E-mail: theo@mun.ca (send e-mail only from your MUN account)

General Expectations:

This course represents the culmination of the Masters degree in Computer Engineering. The aim of this course is to provide students with an opportunity to focus on an area of computer engineering related to their interests. During the spring semester each student has selected an individual project in consultation with a potential supervisor. The project selection should have been confirmed with the course coordinator.

All projects are expected to consist of a significant design and/or analysis component. The course is worth 6 credit hours, *which is twice the normal credit for a course*, and, hence, students are expected to put *significant* effort into the course: typically students should spend at least 25-30 hours per week on their project.

The course will be overseen by the course coordinator, but students will be expected to largely interact with their chosen supervisor, who will give them guidance on their specific project and will mark their reports and presentation. During the summer and fall terms, students are expected to meet at least once a week with their supervisor to discuss project progress and receive guidance on the project direction.

Course Evaluation:

Project Selection	0%	By Friday, May 15.
Project Definition	10%	Due: 9:00 a.m., Friday, May 29.
Progress Report 0	15%	Due 9:00 a.m., Friday, July 24
Presentation 0	10%	Week of July 26
Progress Report 1	15%	Due 9:00 a.m., Friday, Oct 2nd
Final Presentation	10%	Week of Nov 17th
Final Report	40%	Due: 9:00 a.m., Friday, December 4

Two copies of all reports must be submitted to the course co-ordinator by the specified deadline. Failure to meet a deadline will result in a mark penalty of 10% per day. **If any sections of a report or presentation are found to be plagiarized, the student will be given a mark of 0 for that particular component of the course.**

The each report will represent a snap-shot of your progress to date and may include within them deliverables such as the requirements specification, design documentation, and test plans. In the project definition and the progress report, these deliverables may be in a draft form.

Evaluation of each progress report and the final report will include an evaluation of the progress of the project to that date compared with expected outcomes as well as an evaluation of the report itself.

Project Definition

The project definition should be about 8-12 pages in length with "double" spacing with an 11 or 12 point font. The report should provide a thorough description of the project's objectives including a list of deliverables. The report should present a preliminary literature review. For analysis-oriented projects, the report should explain the research questions to be answered and the methodology to be used and, for design projects, the report should contain a preliminary requirements specification. The project definition should contain a summary of the remaining activities to be undertaken in the project with an indication of the dates by which major milestones will be achieved. As well, a properly formatted reference section should be included and appropriate citations must be given. Any plagiarism discovered in the report will result in a mark of 0 being assigned to the report.

The report mark will be assigned by the project supervisor, in consultation with the course coordinator, and will be determined based on the technical achievement of the student, as well as the quality of the presentation of the report.

Progress Reports:

Each progress report should be about 12-15 pages in length with "double" spacing with an 11 or 12 point font. The report should provide detailed documentation of the progress achieved to date. The first progress report should contain a thorough literature review. For analysis-oriented projects, the report should explain a detailed methodology and present preliminary results. For design projects, the report should contain a completed requirements specification and an outline of the design. All reports, regardless of whether the project is analysis or design focussed, should contain sufficient background to indicate that the students has a clear understanding of the context and direction of the project. The progress report should also contain a detailed description of the methodology to be used in undertaking the project. It should contain an updated schedule. As well, a properly formatted reference section should be included and appropriate citations must be given. Any plagiarism discovered in the report will result in a mark of 0 being assigned to the report.

The report mark will be assigned by the project supervisor, in consultation with the course coordinator, and will be determined based on the technical achievement of the student, as well as the quality of the presentation of the report.

Presentations:

Near the end of each term, students will be expected to present a summary of their work on their project to fellow students and interested faculty members. The presentations should be 17 minutes in duration (including set-up time), with an extra 3 minutes allowed for questions. A strict overall time limit of 20 minutes will be followed. The presentation mark will be assigned by the project supervisor and the course coordinator (or his delegate) and will be determined based on the technical achievement of the student, as well as the quality of the presentation.

Final Report:

The final report should be about 30 pages in length with "double" spacing with 11 or 12 point font and should contain a complete summary of the project and results. The final report should

contain a thorough literature review. For analysis-oriented projects, the report should explain a detailed methodology and present final results. For design projects, the report should contain a completed requirements specification and the complete design as well as a discussion of the implementation and verification. It should identify the successes and conclusions of the work and well as an honest assessment of any shortcomings of the project. Future directions for the work should be identified. As well, a properly formatted reference section must be included and appropriate citations must be given. Any plagiarism discovered in the report will result in a mark of 0 being assigned to the report.
The report mark will be assigned by the project supervisor, in consultation with the course coordinator, and will be determined based on the technical achievement of the student, as well as the quality of the presentation of the report.

Components and Equipment:

Funds have been allocated for the purchase of components, equipment, and software that are required to complete projects. If you require any such purchases, consult with your project supervisor, who will approach the course coordinator for permission to make the purchase.

980A/B vs. 9801:

In the past, the final project has been offered as one 6 credit hour course taken in one term and was numbered 9801. We are currently transitioning to two linked courses to be taken over two terms. These are 980A and 980B. Each is pass/fail. Both must be passed to obtain the 6 credit hours. As 980A is not yet officially approved (as of May 2009) there you will not yet be able to register for it. Once the course is approved by university senate, you will be asked to register. In case that the new courses are not approved in time, we will simply offer 9801 in the fall and you will have a 3 month head start on it.