## KXA155 Professional Computing

### Unit Outline

**Semester 1, 2003**

### Prerequisites

None

### Corequisites

None

### Unit Weight

12.5

### Unit Coordinator

Neville Holmes  
Room V168  
(03) 6324 3393  
Neville.Holmes@utas.edu.au

### Scheduled Teaching Sessions

- **Lectures:** 3 hr/wk  
- **Tutorials:** 1 hr/wk (from week 2)

The Unit Timetable can be accessed from the Study Resources section of the School website. ([http://www.comp.utas.edu.au/app/studyresources.jsp](http://www.comp.utas.edu.au/app/studyresources.jsp)).

Most of the lectures and tutorials for North West Centre students will be via video conference.

### Unit Website

The unit website is accessed from [http://webct.utas.edu.au:8900](http://webct.utas.edu.au:8900). You will need to use your email pop account username and password to log on to the WebCT system. Once authenticated by the system your personalised MyWebCT area will be displayed. It contains links to the websites that you have permission to access - including the website for this unit.

This unit is Web Dependent: content & communication. This means that you will need to use the Web for this unit. The unit website contains unit information and resources. You will need to access the website to complete some assessment items.

If you are not able to access the unit website, please contact the University IT help desk:

- **Level 2 Morris Miller Library, Sandy Bay Campus; Level 0 Building A, Newnham Campus.**  
- **Website:** [http://www.utas.edu.au/helpdesk](http://www.utas.edu.au/helpdesk)  
- **Telephone:** 6226 1818  
- **Fax:** 6226 7669  
- **Email:** HelpDesk@utas.edu.au

### Prescribed Text


### Provider

School of Computing - Faculty of Science, Engineering, and Technology. ([http://www.comp.utas.edu.au](http://www.comp.utas.edu.au))

### Useful University Web Links

Information and Resources for 'Current Students' are available on the university website at: [http://www.utas.edu.au/students/](http://www.utas.edu.au/students/)  
It includes useful links such as:


### OVERVIEW

**Introduction**

As a professional in computing you will be expected to bring more to your work than technical computing skills. A computing professional is expected to be able to communicate effectively and to work with other
people. There are laws that are particularly relevant to computing. There are also areas where a professional needs to consider the social impact of their work. They may be confronted with the need to consider ethical grounds for decisions in their work. Often computing professionals are involved in planning for future needs or developing innovative solutions to problems - what insights does the past provide? The issues and ideas discussed in this unit are not intended as an end point but rather as a starting point as you look for opportunities to develop as a professional.

In this unit you will be:

- developing your skills in communication and teamwork
- considering the impact of the use of computers on society
- developing your understanding of how computing has evolved
- considering the role of professional societies in computing
- considering what are the personal obligations of a professional

Objectives

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. describe the evolution of computing
2. discuss some of the social, legal, and ethical issues in computing
3. discuss what it means to be a 'professional' in the discipline of computing

Unit Content

History: Speech Technology, Literate Technology, Numeric Technology, Unit Records (1900s), Stored Programs (1950s), Operating Systems ('60s), Data Management ('70s), Text Management ('80s), Multimedia Support ('90s), Grand Networking ('00s), The Next Fifty Years?

Professional: Professional Societies, Doing Business, Project Management, Employment, Research


Communication: Presentations, Listening, Team Work, Interviews, Meetings, Argument, Plain English, Reports

For more information see the section titled 'Content' on the unit website.

Generic Skills

The university has defined a set of generic graduate attributes expected in its graduates. http://www.admin.utas.edu.au/academic/acservices/meetings/Senate/Appendix/3_01D1.doc Your course is designed to enable you to develop generic skills that are valued in, and expected of, graduates. These are skills that you will need to develop over time. Hence you are encouraged to look for opportunities, as you study each unit, to reflect on and improve these skills.

LEARNING AND TEACHING

Approach to Learning

You are expected to spend about 130 hrs studying in this unit - this includes attendance at scheduled teaching sessions. (For a 13 week semester this is, on average, 10 hr/wk.) This is the amount of study time that the 'typical' student will need to reach the level of competence and understanding required to fulfil the unit objectives.

You are expected to:

- attend all scheduled lectures and tutorials, unless otherwise notified by the unit coordinator
- prepare for, and actively participate in lectures and tutorials
- complete the assigned learning tasks
- review what has been learnt
- complete assessment items and submit them on time
- access and be familiar with the information and resources available on the unit website
- seek help from teaching staff if you have any questions or difficulties in studying this unit

You are encouraged to read the university's Code of Conduct for Teaching and Learning. Part A describes the 'Responsibility of the University to Students' and part B describes the 'Responsibilities of Students to the University'. http://www.admin.utas.edu.au/HANDBOOKS/UTASHANDBOOKS/RULES/CTEA.html

Schedule

See the 'Schedule' section on the unit website for the timetable and associated resources.

Teaching and Teaching Staff
Support Staff

Unit Coordinator:

Lecturer: Neville Holmes
E-Mail: Neville.Holmes@utas.edu.au
Phone: (03) 6324 3393
Room: V168

Lecturing Staff

Newnham, Launceston: Neville Holmes
NW Centre, Burnie: Pam Davies
Sandy Bay, Hobart: Dr. David Wright

School Help Desk

Contact the School Help Desk if you have any queries or problems with accessing, using, or printing from the computers in the School of Computing labs.

- Hobart: the Help Desk is located near the School's reception desk and is open in the morning from 9-11, and in the afternoon from 12-1 and 2-4, Monday-Friday. The phone number is 6226 2960.
- Launceston: the Help Desk is located near the entrance to the computing labs and is open in the morning from 10-12, and in the afternoon from 2-4:30, Monday-Thursday. On Fridays it is open from 10-12 in the morning and 2-4 in the afternoon. The phone number is 6324 3654.
- Burnie: the computer labs at the NWC are maintained by ITS. Please contact the University Help Desk for assistance. The 6 Macs are maintained by the School of Computing. If you have a query or problem that is specific to the School of Computing please phone the School of Computing Help Desk in Launceston.

University Services and Support

The University has staff available to assist you, such as the:

- Learning Development Advisor
- Student Counselor
- Careers Advisor
- Disability Officer

For more information and contact details see the Services and Support section on the University 'Current Students' web page. [http://www.utas.edu.au/students/](http://www.utas.edu.au/students/)

Resources

Unit Website

The unit website contains unit information and resources. You will need to access the website to complete some assessment items.

Prescribed Text


Readings

Additional readings for this unit are available in the Resources section of the unit website.

Software

The software that you will need to access the unit website and to study this unit, including general purpose software such as word processors, is provided on the computers in the School's computing labs. If you intend to use software on other computers please check that the versions are compatible.

Computing Facilities

The School has PC labs (Windows 2000 Professional), Mac labs (Mac OS-X 10.2), Unix labs (linux / X-windows), and Networking labs at the Newnham and Sandy Bay campuses. It also maintains 6 Macs (Mac OS-X 10.2) at the NW Centre.
If you have not used these facilities before please contact the School Help Desk to organise your account details. If you would like to access the facilities at the Newnham and Sandy Bay campuses after hours please contact the School Help Desk.

Please contact the School Help Desk if you have difficulty accessing or using these facilities.

**Ethical Use of Facilities**

Use of computing facilities provided by the School is subject to the School's Ethics Guidelines - [http://www.comp.utas.edu.au/app/ethics.jsp](http://www.comp.utas.edu.au/app/ethics.jsp). Copies of the guidelines are also available in all School labs. The School's facilities may only be used for study-related purposes, and may not be used for personal gain. The playing of games is strictly prohibited in all labs at all times. Before being granted access to the School's facilities, you will be required to sign a declaration that you have read and understand these guidelines, and that you will abide by them. Disciplinary action may be taken against students who violate the guidelines.

**Occupational Health and Safety**

The university is committed to providing a safe and secure teaching and learning environment. For more information see [http://www.admin.utas.edu.au/hr/ohs/pol_proc/ohs.pdf](http://www.admin.utas.edu.au/hr/ohs/pol_proc/ohs.pdf)

**ASSESSMENT**

**Assessment Items**

**Item 0**

- **Title:** Hardware Test
- **Type:** In-Semester - test
- **Weighting:** 0%
- **Due:** Launceston week 1, Burnie week 2, Hobart TBA

This test **must** be successfully completed to PASS this unit. If you enrol late for this unit you will be able to complete this test in week 13. The date for this test for Hobart students will be provided in the 1st week's lectures and on the unit website in the Assessment section.

**Item 1**

- **Title:** Individual Presentation
- **Type:** In-Semester - individual assignment
- **Weighting:** 10%
- **Due:** In Tutorials, weeks 3 - 6

**Item 2**

- **Title:** Presentation in Pairs
- **Type:** In-Semester - group assignment
- **Weighting:** 10%
- **Due:** In Tutorials, weeks 6 - 10

**Item 3**

- **Title:** Team Debate
- **Type:** In-Semester - group assignment
- **Weighting:** 10%
- **Due:** In Tutorials, weeks 10-13

**Item 4**

- **Title:** Discussion Topics
- **Type:** In-Semester - learning tasks
- **Weighting:** 5%
- **Due:** 23rd May (week 12)

**Item 5**

- **Title:** 3 hr Examination
- **Type:** Formal Examination
- **Weighting:** 65%
- **Due:** University Examination Period
See the 'Assessment' section in unit website for more detailed information about assessment items.

**In-Semester Assessment**

Unless specifically stated in the specification of the assessment item provided on the unit website, it is required that:

- work submitted by a student is the work of that student alone OR
- where the assessment item is to be completed by a group of students, the work submitted by the group of students is the work of that group of students alone.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is taking and using someone else's thoughts, writings, or inventions and representing them as your own; for example downloading an essay from a cheat site, copying another student's work, or using an author's words or ideas without citing the source. Plagiarism is a form of cheating. It is a University offence punishable by a range of penalties including a fine or deduction/cancellation of marks and, in the most serious of cases, exclusion from a unit, a course, or the University. **When in doubt consult your lecturer or tutor.** Details of penalties that can be imposed are available in the Ordinance of Student Discipline or at [http://www.utas.edu.au/plagiarism](http://www.utas.edu.au/plagiarism).

**Referencing**

The university document on plagiarism contains information about referencing the work or ideas of others. The preferred text referencing systems for the School is the Harvard system (also referred to as the author-date system). For information on the Harvard system see [http://www.utas.edu.au/library/assist/gpoa/gpoa2.html](http://www.utas.edu.au/library/assist/gpoa/gpoa2.html).

**Submissions**

All in-semester assignment submissions (including electronic submissions) are to include an Assignment Cover Sheet which includes a statement confirming that the submission is your own work. If this undertaking is not signed, the assignment will not be marked. The Assignment Cover Sheet is available from the School Help Desk in Launceston and Hobart, and on the School's web site [http://www.comp.utas.edu.au/app/studyresources.jsp](http://www.comp.utas.edu.au/app/studyresources.jsp).

**Extensions**

Assessment items will not be accepted after the due date except under the conditions stated in the school policy on late assessment. [http://www.comp.utas.edu.au/app/late_assess.jsp](http://www.comp.utas.edu.au/app/late_assess.jsp)

**Formal Examination**

The formal examination is conducted by the University Registrar. The 'Current Students' section on the university website contains information about the conduct of, and timetable for, formal examinations.

**Final Grade**

Overall assessment will be based on the student's performance throughout the semester as well as in a formal examination. In order to achieve a pass (or better) result, a student must obtain:

1. at least 40% of the total mark for in-semester assessment items
2. at least 40% of the mark for the formal examination
3. at least 50% of the overall mark

Passing grades will be awarded based on the AVCC guidelines:

- PP at least 50% of the overall mark but less than 60%
- CR at least 60% of the overall mark but less than 70%
- DN at least 70% of the overall mark but less than 80%
- HD at least 80% of the overall mark

The maximum mark awarded to a student who fails the unit will be 44.

For more information, including other grades such as Supplementary and Terminating grades, see the School of Computing's guidelines for assessment - available at: [http://www.comp.utas.edu.au/app/assess.jsp](http://www.comp.utas.edu.au/app/assess.jsp)