

# COMPUTERS AND COMPUTING (COMP 102)

**Fall 2006**

Classes meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the L. M. Trottier Building, Room 0070 from 8:35 a.m. to 9:55 a.m.

**Course Website:** [www.cim.mcgill.ca/~sveta/COMP102](http://www.cim.mcgill.ca/~sveta/COMP102)

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**Office Hours:** Tue, Thu 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and by appointment

**Teaching Assistant:**

**Office:**

**E-mail:**

**Office Hours:**

This survey course is designed to introduce a lay student to the world of computer science, a science that explores the power, limitations, and consequences of computation. This course will give students an understanding for how computers have evolved over time and how they work. Students will understand the functionality of computer hardware and how this hardware is used to interpret computer programs. Students will then discover how computers communicate and the world of the Internet. They will gain experience making their own web pages and will learn the fundamentals of programming using Javascript. We will then look at the theoretical issues in algorithm design and try to solve a few classical problems in computer science. After a quick look at software distribution policies and the social impact of computers, we will ponder the future of Computer Science by looking at the area of Artificial Intelligence.

This course is not about learning how to use computers, although it should increase the students' level of comfort when using computers.

## OFFICIAL COURSE DESCRIPTION

A course for students with no previous knowledge of computer science. The impact of computers on society. Web design and dynamic content. The inner workings of computers (hardware). Networking principles. Algorithm design and programming. A look at how computers store data (image, sound, and video). Software distribution policies and mechanisms.

Prerequisite: high school level mathematics course on functions

Restrictions: Credit will not be given for COMP 102 if it is taken concurrently with, or after, any of: COMP 202, COMP 203, COMP 208, COMP 250. Management students cannot receive credit for COMP 102.

## TEXTBOOKS

None

## EVALUATION

Your final course grade will be based on the results of the following assessments:

5 Homework Assignments .....	45%
Midterm Test (tentative date: October 12, 2006).....	15%
Participation.....	5%
Final Exam (t.b.d.).....	35%

The lowest homework grade will be worth 5% of the final grade and the other 4 will be worth 10%. Homework assignments are **due at the start of class**. Late homework assignments will be penalized at 20% per day. You are welcome to work together on the homework questions, but solutions *must* be individual.

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES

McGill policy allows students to hand in their assignments in either French or English.

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see [www.mcgill.ca/integrity](http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity) for more information).

If you have a disability please contact the instructor to arrange a time to discuss your situation. It would be helpful if you contact the Office for Students with Disabilities at 398-6009 (online at <http://www.mcgill.ca/osd>) before you do this.