Course Outline

MSc in Computer Science 2015-6

Oliver Ray
(with thanks to Steve Gregory)

05/11/2015
Workload

Total: 180CP ≈ 1800 hours

• October – January: 60CP
• January – May: 60CP (inc. 20CP project-related)
• June – September: 60CP (project)

Holidays?
Work?
Workload

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Holidays? Work?
Year outline and project-based work

When you are attending lectures and labs

When you are recommended to take some time off

When you are expected to be at university
Simple guide to MSc assessment

MSc = taught part (120CP) + project (60CP)

Most units are level-7 (Masters): COMSM...
Some are level-6 (Honours): COMS3...
Some are level-5 (Intermediate): COMS2...

• Pass 180CP (taught part and project): MSc.
How to pass taught part

Get average mark of $\geq 50\%$ for taught part (120CP) and
Pass every unit in taught part.
How to pass a taught unit

• Get a mark above the pass mark
  ($ \geq 50\%$ for level-7 units, $\geq 40\%$ for level-5,6 units)
How to pass project

Get mark of at least 50%.
Otherwise?

It *might* still be possible to pass, but it is not guaranteed and rules are very complex and change every year:

- **Compensated passes** (mark 45-49% in up to 30CP).
- Resits (usually in August-September).
- Resubmission of project (mark 45-49%).
- *Diploma* (120CP) or *Certificate* (60CP) instead of MSc.

See:

www.bristol.ac.uk/esu/assessment/codeonline.html
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Why is it complicated?

Compensated passes (mark 45-49% in up to 30CP):
• Can you get compensated pass with <40% in a level-5,6 unit?
• What if you get 45-50% in one level-7 unit but <45% in another?
• Can you get a compensated pass after resitting a unit (and getting 45-49%)?

Resits (usually in August-September):
• Do you resit only the part you failed, or do a special “competency test”? 
MSc with Distinction/Merit

Assuming you pass all 180CP…

your “class” of MSc depends on average mark for taught part (T) and project (P):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T</th>
<th>P</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>MSc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>MSc with Merit</td>
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<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>MSc with Distinction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>MSc with Distinction in rest of Uni</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Marking process

January: Exams\Vivas (TB1).
February: Exam board (TB1).
May-June: Exams\Vivas (TB2).
June: Exam board (TB2).
September: Submit project.
November: Exam board (project).

Aug-September: Resits.

January: Submit project.
February: Exam board (project).
Deadlines

Deadlines are very strict!
Coursework deadlines

Assignment Ass1

Deadline: Mon 21 Mar 2011
Day Late: Tue 22 Mar 2011
Week Late: Mon 28 Mar 2011
Deadline Time: 23:59:59 on each deadline date

Lose 10% 1-7 days late: lose 10% and restrict to pass mark
Coursework deadlines

• Only unit director can extend deadline for whole class.

• Only programme director (or MSc senior tutor) can extend deadline for individuals.
Illness, etc.

If you can’t meet a deadline because of illness: ask programme director for extension, which should also be agreed by unit director.

Ask for extension before the deadline.

You need independent documentary evidence, checked by special circumstances committee before exam board meets.
Illness, etc.

If you need an extension beyond your programme end date (normally September 2016):

• you need to complete an extension form, which must be agreed by graduate dean.

Ask for extension long before your programme end date.

You need independent documentary evidence.
Illness, etc.

Another possibility is to suspend studies:

• you need to complete a suspension form, which must be agreed by graduate dean.

Ask for suspension as soon as you stop working (because it can’t be backdated).

You need independent documentary evidence.
Illness, etc.

If your performance was affected by illness:

• submit an extenuating circumstances form before exam board.

Extenuating circumstances form must be submitted before the deadline.

Again you need independent documentary evidence, checked by special circumstances committee before exam board meets.
Illness, etc.

If you **fail** a taught unit because of illness:

“First attempt” resit:

- Done in August-September *but*
- Mark is based on whole unit, including marks already awarded.
- Mark is not limited to pass mark.

If you pass a taught unit but get **low mark** because of illness, etc.: hard luck!

Need **independent documentary evidence**, checked by *special circumstances committee*. 
Simple guide to plagiarism

- Don’t copy someone else’s work (or from web, etc.)
- Cite all sources you use
- Don't do unauthorised group work - you'll all get 0
- Never look at someone else’s code on a screen or paper
- Put all your coursework in your “private” directory
- The penalties for plagiarism are severe!

From Dept. plagiarism committee
Keeping in touch

• Course talks (at least one per term)

• Graduate School: Magda Clark
  magda.clark@bristol.ac.uk

• Unit Directors

• Course Rep: Liam White
  lw15302@bristol.ac.uk

• Program Director: Oliver Ray
  csxor@bristol.ac.uk (3.29 MVB)
Suggestions so far [and actions]

• have a couple of dedicated, interactive SDL workshops for M1401 to help students learn the basics [IH organized such a session immediately after my talk]

• have an outline of expected assessment deadlines on M1201 [I have emailed NC to clarify]

• have a list of subjects with exams [I added this information to https://www.cs.bris.ac.uk/Teaching/conversion/]

• Have a link to past exam papers [this is available at https://www.cs.bris.ac.uk/Teaching/Exams/]
THE END