

Contemporary Topics Lecture Series: Introduction

The Contemporary Topics lecture series is a series of talks about current topics of interest, challenges, and industry and research problems related to Computing. The lectures are on an introductory level. They are intended to make you aware of interesting topics and problems related to Computer Science and how these are related to your course. The lectures are given by internal and external speakers from local and national companies and universities. Some of the lectures may be based on video presentations.

- The lectures are for about 1 hour on **Monday, 13:10–14:00, in S/1.32.**
- This lecture series is part of CM0128 Communication Skills and Project Management.
- Further details are available at <http://www.langbein.org/teaching/ct/> and on blackboard for the CM0128 module.
- Contact Frank Langbein (F.C.Langbein@cs.cf.ac.uk) with questions and comments.

Aims and Objectives

The aims of this lecture series are:

- Make you aware of recent innovations and developments related to your course.
- Highlight future career paths in research and industry.
- Highlight relevance of a variety of topics studied for your course.
- Encourage you to further investigate the topics discussed.

The speakers will provide information about online resources and books, articles, etc. with additional information about the topics. You are expected to use the library and Internet to make use of these resources. The library can be a valuable source of information, not just for this lecture series.

At the end of this lecture series you will be able to:

- Relate Computing to a wide range of industrial, commercial and research applications.
- See the relevance of topics studied for the degree:
 - Be aware which modules are relevant for possible future career paths.
 - What qualifications are required for pursuing future career paths.
 - Possible projects, in particular for the final year, related to the topics discussed.

Coursework

At the end of the lecture series you will have to write an essay about one of the lectures as coursework for CM0128. The topics are related to the general context of the lectures, but are not covered completely by them. The topic assigned to you will be randomly selected. There is **no choice of topic!**

Approximately in week 9 or 10 you will receive more details about the coursework, the required content, submission deadline, etc. with your essay topic. Some general guidelines and requirements are:

- You are *positively* encouraged to **take notes** during the lectures. Copies of the lecture slides will also be available on the lecture series web-site and on blackboard. However, note that you are **not** supposed to simply copy these notes.
- You are *positively* encouraged to **ask questions** during the lectures. Please make every effort to ask questions—they may help you for writing the coursework.
- You will be required to **undertake additional reading and research** and review these resources in your essay. Your ultimate mark will reflect this! Therefore, you **must give references** as appropriate and provide evidence that the library and other resources were used.
- You *must* **typeset** your essay.

Attendance

Attendance for the contemporary topics lectures is compulsory. If you have missed any of the lectures, in particular the one you have been assigned the coursework for, the following applies:

- You *must* **inform us** over the school's office that you missed a lecture as soon as possible after the particular lecture.
- Your excuse for missing a lecture **must be valid.** It *must* be supported by a **doctors note or similar documentation.**
- If you do not inform us **before** the coursework assignment you run the risk of being assigned a topic for which you did not attend the lecture. **No change of topic** will be permitted after the assignment.