COMP 1600: Navigating Your Digital World

Calendar Description Topics related to digital society such as security, encryption and data storage, issues of social and ethical importance, and current events. May not be used to fulfill computer science requirements in a Computer Science Honours, Major, General or Minor program. Not available to students who have previously obtained credit in, or are concurrently registered in, any 2000 level university Computer Science course. May not be held with COMP 1270.

Prerequisite There are no prerequisites for this course.

Course Objectives This course will introduce students to a broad range of topics of interest to students in a digital society. The course emphasizes digital literacy, privacy and security both as concepts and as practical realities that modern citizens should be aware of. This course does not emphasize programming or problem solving. COMP 1600 will be an introduction to our digital tools and concepts that will be useful to students.

Course Topics

- The language of technology
- Web site creation using a content management approach
- Web site alternatives
- Computing security
- Encryption history, asymmetric and symmetric key encryption, encrypting files versus volumes, on-the-fly-   encryption, plausible deniability
- File transfer technologies
- Cloud storage technologies and deduplication
- Backup strategies
- Platform considerations and virtualization
- Computing algorithms that changed the world
- Privacy
- Copyright
- History of computing
- Introduction to software development
- Computing as a profession

Topics related to current events as appropriate   All topics are subject to time constraints. It is likely that a few topics will be covered very lightly or not at all. Class discussion and input may occasionally dictate what topics are covered in class.