

# **CMPS 4883: Topics in Computer Science: History of Computing**

## **British Studies Program – London 2021**

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**Course Description:** Computers and related technology have changed history and the trajectory of humankind. This course aims to view the computer revolution through several lenses:

- Development and evolution of hardware and software,
- Important players (individuals, companies, and countries),
- Motivations for development,
- Components providing for the internet, and
- Little known, yet interesting, information relating to the computer revolution.

The course is appropriate for all students with an interest in history and technology.

### **Learning Objectives:**

Students will demonstrate:

- Understanding of the timeline of computer development, including cause and effect,
- Appreciation of important players in computer history, including the contributions of each to the industry,
- Knowledge of the development of the internet, including all the parts that came together to allow its development,
- Ability to discuss hardware and software evolution,
- Identification of motivating factors promoting the computer revolution, and
- Discovery of little known information related to computing.

**Materials:** Various print and online materials are used for the course.

**Other:** Assignments are tailored to each student's major.

**Attendance & Behavior:** Attendance at all class meetings is mandatory. Students will arrive on time and stay for the entire class period. There is a one-letter grade reduction for each unexcused absence during a class period, and there are usually multiple class periods per day. Students will act appropriately and with respect towards all persons involved in this program, including MSU Study Abroad faculty, staff and students, guest speakers, persons on site visits, and others with whom we come in contact. Any behavior deemed inappropriate may result in reduction of course grade and class participation.