



Universidad
de Alcalá

TEACHING GUIDE

Advanced programming

Degree in
Computer Engineering (GIC)
Computer Science Engineering (GII)
Computer Science Engineering and Business Management
and Administration (GII-ADE)

Universidad de Alcalá

Academic Year 2025/2026

2nd Year - 2nd Semester (GIC+GII)

3rd Year - 2nd Semester (GII-ADE)

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Course Name:	Advanced programming
Code:	780014 (GIC+GII+GII-ADE)
Degree in:	Computer Engineering (GIC) Computer Science Engineering (GII) Computer Science Engineering and Business Management and Administration (GII-ADE)
Department and area:	Ciencias de la Computación Computer Science
Type:	Compulsory (GIC+GII+GII-ADE)
ECTS Credits:	6.0
Year and semester:	2nd Year - 2nd Semester (GIC+GII) 3rd Year - 2nd Semester (GII-ADE)
Teachers:	José María Gutiérrez Martínez, Adrián Valledor Pérez
Tutoring schedule:	Will be published at the beginning of the course
Language:	English

1. COURSE SUMMARY

This course introduces new concepts and programming techniques that allow students to handle the creation of applications that use concurrency, distribution and mobile.

To reach this goals, the course will show the origins, evolution, present time and future of the tools, languages and theories behind concurrency.

Entry requirements: Students are recommended to have previously taken the Programming courses and data structures course.

2. SKILLS

Basic, Generic and Cross Curricular Skills.

This course contributes to acquire the following basic, generic and cross curricular skills:

en_CG4 - Ability to define, evaluate and select hardware and software platforms for the development and execution of computer systems, services and applications, in accordance with the knowledge acquired as set out in section 5, annex 2, of resolution BOE-A-2009 -12977.

en_CG6 - Ability to conceive and develop centralized or distributed computer systems or architectures integrating hardware, software and networks in accordance with the knowledge acquired as set out in section 5, annex 2, of resolution BOEA-2009-12977.

en_CB1 - That students have demonstrated to possess and understand knowledge in an area of study that is based on general secondary education, and is usually found at a level that, although supported by advanced textbooks, also includes some aspects that involve knowledge from the forefront of their field of study.

en_CB2 - That the students know how to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and possess the competencies that are usually demonstrated through the elaboration and defense of arguments and the resolution of problems within their area of study.

en_CB3 - That students have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually within their area of study) to make judgments that include a reflection on relevant social, scientific or ethical issues.

en_CB4 - That students can transmit information, ideas, problems and solutions to both a specialized and non-specialized public.

en_CB5 - That the students have developed those learning skills necessary to undertake further studies with a high degree of autonomy.

en_TRU1 - Capacity of analysis and synthesis.

en_TRU2 - Oral and written competencies.

en_TRU3 - Ability to manage information.

en_TRU4 - Autonomous learning skills.

en_TRU5 - Team work.

Specific Skills

This course contributes to acquire the following specific skills:

en_CI8 - Ability to analyze, design, build and maintain applications in a robust, safe and efficient way, choosing the most appropriate programming paradigm and languages.

en_CI11 - Knowledge and application of the characteristics, functionalities and structure of Distributed Systems, Computer Networks and Internet and to design and implement applications based on them.

en_CI14 - Knowledge and application of the fundamental principles and basic techniques of parallel, concurrent, distributed and real-time programming.

Learning Outcomes

After succeeding in this subject the students will be able to:

RA1. Evaluate the effect of programming languages capabilities and limitations on computer systems creation process.

RA2. Describe the evolution of programming languages, paradigms available and their main characteristics.

RA3. Analyze the effect on information systems design of the evolution of programming languages, paradigms available and their main characteristics.

RA4. Apply parallel, concurrent and distributed programming, with the knowledge of their advantages, disadvantages and main algorithm, to the design of more efficient systems.

3. CONTENTS

Topic 1: Programming Paradigms: History of programming languages, Brief presentation of the different paradigms. Comparison between paradigms, their usefulness and their influence on programming languages.

Topic 2. Introduction to concurrency: Historical evolution. Terminology. Problems of concurrency. Concurrency. Architectures that support concurrency. Shared variables. Distributed memory. Fairness assumptions. Safety and liveness properties.

Topic 3: Single memory concurrency: Cooperate and compete processes. Examples. Algorithms, Active waiting, Locks and Conditions.

Topic 4: Mutual exclusion mechanisms: Semaphores, Critical Regions, Conditional CR and monitors

Topic 5: Advanced tools for synchronized communication. Concurrency and utilities.

Topic 6: Control of threads, tasks and Thread pools.

Topic 7: Distributed concurrent programming: message passing and sockets.

Topic 8. Distributed concurrent programming: RPC and RMI.

Contents Blocks	Total number of hours
Module 1. Programming paradigms and introduction to concurrent programming (Topics 1, 2 and 3)	1.5 ECTS
Module 2. Advanced concurrency and utilities, tasks and thread pools (Topics 4, 5 and 6)	3.0 ECTS
Module 3. Distributed concurrency (Topics 7 and 8)	1.5 ECTS

4. TEACHING - LEARNING METHODOLOGIES. FORMATIVE ACTIVITIES.

4.1. Credits Distribution

Number of on-site hours:	60 hours (56 hours on-site +4 exams hours)
Number of hours of student work:	90 hours (Includes study hours, preparation of activities, preparation of exams)
Total hours	150

4.2. Methodological strategies, teaching materials and resources

The course contents described shall be taught in the following ways:

- Taught theory classes
- Supervised practical classes: problem solving in class.
- Supervised practical labs.
- Tutorials: individual or group.

In addition, depending on the nature of the work, the students may make use of the following study methods, as well as others:

- Individual realization of coursework but with information input and management as part of a team.
- Exchange of information, problems and doubts which arise during individual work with course mates.
- Organization and production of published journal articles alongside oral presentations and discussions on the results.
- Use of the Virtual Learning Platform as a principal form of access to all activities and subject materials.

Class contact hours:

- In class: Presentation and discussion of core subject knowledge. Planning and theoretical solving and problems and related hypotheses. Oriented towards the teaching of subject specific skills, especially those related to the key concepts and practices of the imperative programming

paradigm.

- In practical labs: Planning and development of practical exercises which allow problems to be solved and hypotheses to be analyzed, contributing to the development of analytical and critical reasoning skills as well as an understanding of problem solving methods. These will serve as a basis for acquiring the general skills described in part 2 of this guide.

Outside of class:

- Analyzing and learning course contents, solving of problems, consulting the bibliography, individually preparing coursework, sitting exams and self-evaluation. Oriented especially towards developing personal organization skills and planning work individually or as part of a team.
- Tutorials: Individuals and group guidance throughout the learning process. Students may attend in person or online.

Materials and resources:

- Reference bibliography of core and further reading on the subject.
- Personal computers.
- Development environments and accompanying user guides
- Internet connection.
- Virtual Learning Platform and accompanying user guides.
- Projectors.

5. ASSESSMENT: procedures, evaluation and grading criteria

Preferably, students will be offered a continuous assessment model that has characteristics of formative assessment in a way that serves as feedback in the teaching-learning process.

5.1. PROCEDURES

The evaluation must be inspired by the criteria of continuous evaluation (Learning Assessment Guidelines, LAG, art 3). However, in compliance with the regulations of the University of Alcalá, an alternative process of final evaluation is made available to the student in accordance with the [Learning Assessment Guidelines](#) as indicated in Article 10, students will have a period of fifteen days from the start of the course to request in writing to the Director of the Polytechnic School their intention to take the non-continuous evaluation model adducing the reasons that they deem convenient. The evaluation of the learning process of all students who do not apply for it or are denied it will be done, by default, according to the continuous assessment model. The student has two calls to pass the subject, one ordinary and one extraordinary.

Ordinary Call

Continuous Assessment:

The continuous assessment system consists of: a laboratory exercise, a programming exercise in the laboratory and written theoretical/ practical tests which assess taught skills. These exercise will be submitted via the Virtual Learning Platform.

Grading system for Continuous Assessment.

- Each theoretical CAT aims to assess knowledge of the material covered in each test. Students will acquire this knowledge by attending classes, studying the course materials prepared by teachers, doing the further reading suggested for each topic, searching for additional material and doing the exercises suggested by teachers or acquired by students.
- Practical CAT involves the creation of a completed application which must apply all the knowledge

and skills acquired during the course. Also, there will be an examination or oral defense about the content of the CAT.

- The dates of the CAT examinations shall be given to students in the first days of the course in the 'Course Schedule' which can be found on the Virtual Learning Platform. All deadlines and events taking place during the course can be found there.

Weighting of continuous assessments (PEI) in the overall grade:

The final grade is comprised of 60% theory and 40% practice. The final weighting of each exam/practical is as follows:

Practical CATs	% of overall grade
PL	40

Theoretical CATs	% of overall grade
PEI1	15
PEI2	30
PEI3	15

It is mandatory to pass the course, to attend and pass the evaluation of all theoretical competences related to PEI1, PEI2 and PEI3. Those competences will be accepted as passed if the mark of the set of related PEI is higher than 40% of the maximum mark.

Laboratory practice (global result, exercises and problems) must be passed to pass the course. Failing the lab means that the student did not get all the expected competences. Appropriate mechanisms will be established to ensure the students can pass the labs in case of final examination and extraordinary call.

To pass the course a final mark of 5 over 10 or higher must be obtained.

Assessment through final exam:

The end of term examination is only available in certain specified cases and must be requested by students who meet the criteria and who have been granted permission by school administration in accordance with the applicable regulation of the University of Alcalá.

Students who take the summative end of term examination will sit an exam which will cover all the theoretical aspects of the course. They must also provide all the practical laboratory work that has been handed in CATL. If the students do not pass the lab assignment, they will receive the mark of the lab as final mark of the course.

Equally to the continuous evaluation, in the theoretical exam, the related competences are evaluated and it must be reached a mark of 40% or higher, to pass the course. Also, the student must pass practical part of the course.

To pass the course a final mark of 5 over 10 or higher must be obtained.

Extraordinary Call

Examination re-sits shall be held during the month of June for students who failed to pass both continuous assessments and the final exam. It consists of an examination in the same format as the final exam, with the same type of submissions (with a different focus).

5.2. EVALUATION

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The assessment criteria measure the level in which the competences have been acquired by the student. For that purpose, the following are defined:

CE1. The student knows the history and the characteristics of programming languages and he is able to describe differences between programming paradigms.

CE2. The student understand concurrent programming, its types and evolution from sequential programming.

CE3. The student knows the principles of concurrent programs design.

CE4. The student have acquired basic knowledge about concurrent programs coordination.

CE5. The student have acquired the advanced single memory concurrent application design knowledge.

CE6. The student understand the need of distributed concurrent programming and the differences with single memory concurrency.

CE7. The student knows to program in a language supporting distributed concurrency using sockets or RPC.

CE8. The student knows to develop a single memory concurrent system using any available mechanism of programming languages.

CE9. The student have acquired basic knowledge about advanced concurrent programming.

GRADING CRITERIA

In the ordinary call-continuous assessment the relationship between the competences, learning outcomes, criteria and evaluation instruments is as follows.

Skills	Learning Outcomes	Evaluation criteria	Grading Tool	Contribution to the final mark
CG4, CI8	RA1, RA2, RA3	CE1, CE2	PEI1	15%
CG4, CG6, CI14	RA1, RA3, RA4	CE3, CE4, CE5, CE8, CE9	PEI2	30%
CG4, CG6, CI11, CI14	RA4	CE6, CE7	PEI3	15%
CG4, CG6, CI11, CI14	RA1, RA3, RA4	CE3, CE5, CE6, CE7, CE8, CE9	PL	40%

In the ordinary call-final evaluation, the relationship between the competences, learning outcomes, criteria and evaluation instruments is as follows.

Skills	Learning Outcomes	Evaluation criteria	Grading Tool	Contribution to the final mark
CG4, CG6, CI8, CI11, CI14	RA1, RA2, RA3, RA4	CE1, CE2, CE3, CE4, CE5, CE6, CE7, CE8, CE9	PEF	60%
CG4, CG6, CI8, CI11, CI14	RA1, RA3, RA4	CE3, CE5, CE6, CE7, CE8, CE9	PL	40%

Extraordinary call

In the case of the extraordinary call, the same percentages established for the ordinary/final evaluation will be maintained.

Students who fail to take one of the continuous assessment tests, whether theory or laboratory, will be given a grade of No Show.

The teaching-learning methodology and the assessment process will be adapted as needed, in accordance with the guidelines of the Diversity Support Unit, to implement curricular adaptations for students with specific needs.

6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

6.1. Basic Bibliography

- Course notes, available in the virtual classroom platform.
- "Java Concurrency in practice". Goetz, Brian / Peierls, Tim / Bloch, Joshua / Bowbeer, Joseph / Holmes, David / Lea, Doug. 2007. Addison Wesley
- "Java in Distributed Systems". Boger, Marko. 2001. Wiley

6.2. Additional Bibliography

- Concurrent programming
 - "Concurrent Programming in Java™: Design Principles and Pattern, 2nd Edition". Lea, Doug. 2000. Addison Wesley
 - "Principles of Concurrent and Distributed Programming, Second Edition". M. Ben-Ari. Addison-Wesley. 2006.
 - "The Art of Concurrency". Clay Breshears. O'Reilly Media, Inc. 2009.
 - "Concurrency: State Models and Java Programs". Jeff Magee & Jeff Kramer. John Wiley & Sons. 2006.
- Distributed programming
 - "Concurrent Systems. Operating Systems, Database and Distributed Systems". Bacon, J. 1998. Addison Wesley
 - "Object-oriented Reuse, Concurrency and Distribution". Atkinson, Colin. 1991. Addison Wesley
 - "Parallel Program Design". Chandy, Mani / Misra, Jaydev. 1996. Addison Wesley
 - "The Java Programming Language". Arnold, Ken / Gosling, James / Holmes, David. 2005. Addison Wesley
 - "Concurrent and Real-Time Programming in Java". Wellings, Andrew. 2004. John Wiley & Sons
 - "Concurrent Programming Concepts". Brinch-Hansen, P. 1973. ACM Computing Survey

- "Java Distributed Computing". Farley, J. 1998. O'Reilly & Associates, Sebastopol
- Programming
 - "Exercises in Programming Style". Cristina Videira Lopes. CRC Press. 2014

Disclosure Note

During the evaluation tests, the guidelines set out in the Regulations establishing the Rules of Coexistence of the University of Alcalá must be followed, as well as the possible implications of the irregularities committed during said tests, including the consequences for committing academic fraud according to the Regulation of Disciplinary Regime of the Students of the University of Alcalá.