

# Welcome to CSCI1800: Computing and Society in History!

Fall 2020

Dr. Aaron Sidney Wright

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DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY

# Agenda

1. Teaching Team
2. Land Acknowledgement
3. What is the course about?
4. Organization and Introductions  
Break: Introduce yourself!
5. Class Rhythm
6. Grading
7. Conduct
8. Next Steps

Use these slides on your own: <https://g.aaronswright.com/>.  
Under Unit 0: Course Introduction, Select " 1Welcome."

# 1. Teaching Team

Dr. Aaron S. Wright, [asw@dal.ca](mailto:asw@dal.ca), for more info:  
[aaronswright.com](http://aaronswright.com)

- Historian of Science and Technology (esp. Physics and Nuclear things)
- Joined Dal 2018, Before that:
- Postdoc @Stanford University, 2016-18
- Postdoc @Harvard University, 2014-16
- PhD from University of Toronto in 2014
- BA&Sc (Physics and History) from McGill University in 2008



I enjoy photography, and skiing, and wilderness canoeing, and cooking and... I hope to meet you all in person one day soon!

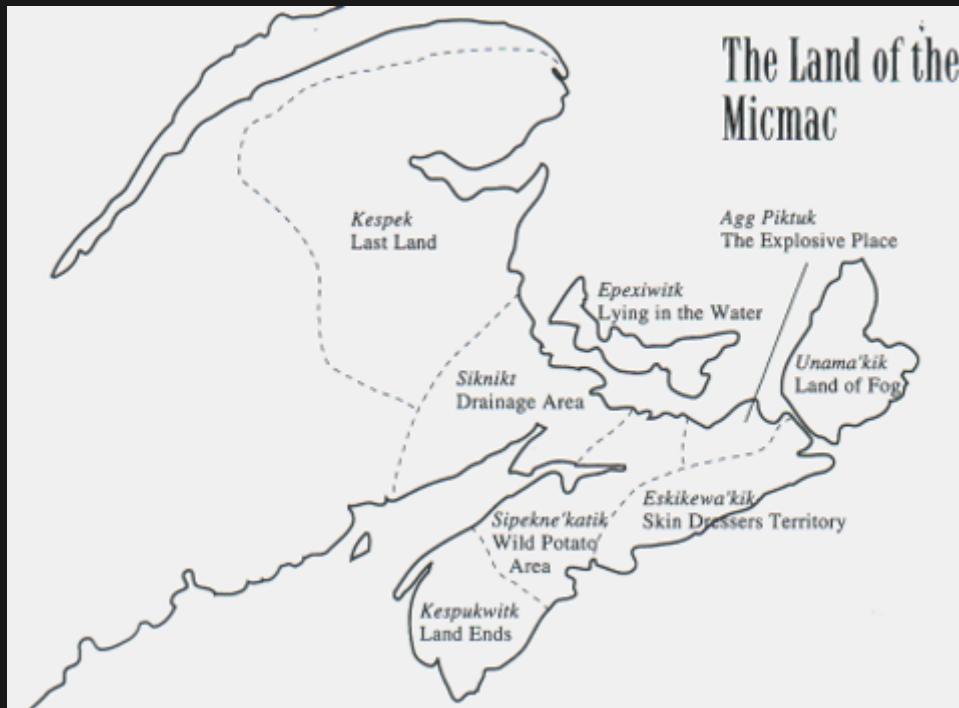
# 1. Teaching Team

There are 14 amazing Teaching Assistants in CSCI1800

Tutorial	TA	Email	Tutorial	TA	Email
TBA	Allan Masterson	AI537064@dal.ca	TBA	Joy Shand	joy.shand@dal.ca
TBA	Allison Graham	al518286@dal.ca	TBA	Kevin Gaul	Kevin.Gaul@dal.ca
TBA	Dana Campbell	dana.campbell@dal.ca	TBA	Dr. Matthew Furlong	mmfurlon@dal.ca
TBA	Gabby Mills	Gabrielle.Mills@Dal.Ca	TBA	Matthew Perkins-McVey	Matthew.J.PM@Dal.Ca
TBA	Holly Hanes	Holly.hanes@dal.ca	TBA	Dr. Michelle Lee	michellelee@dal.ca
TBA	Jacqui Deighton	jc769100@dal.ca	TBA	Sandi Stewart	sandi.stewart@dal.ca
TBA	Jenna Pierson	Jenna.Pierson@dal.ca	TBA	Sarah Boyle	sr979637@dal.ca

## 2. Dal Official Land Acknowledgement

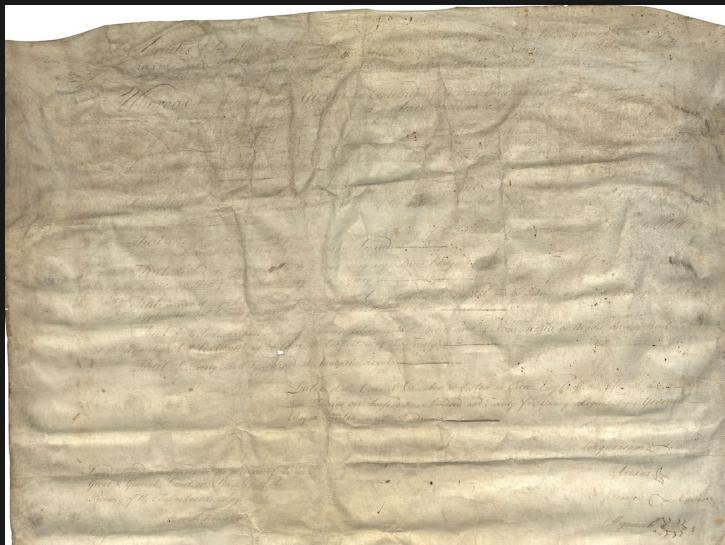
"[Dalhousie University](#) is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. We are all treaty people."



Map of Mi'kma'ki by Daniel Paul.

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[Treaty of 1725](#), one of the Treaties of Peace and Friendship, between the British Crown and the Indigenous peoples of Maine, New Hampshire, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. ([Overview](#)).

## 2. Computing has a role!



*Figure 2: Installing the cell tower in Fort Severn First Nation, 2009 (photo credit KO-KNET)*

Installing the K-Net cell tower in Fort Severn Cree First Nation, 2009. From one of our readings this term, Brian Beaton et al. 2015.

### 3. What is this course about?

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Problem: Computing  $\leftrightarrow$  Society?

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Data: the History of Computing

### **3. What is this course about?**

**Problem: Computing ↔ Society?**

**Data: the History of Computing**

**Skill: Writing**

### 3. What is this course about?

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Skill: Writing ... which includes: Planning, active reading, notetaking, outlining, drafting, editing, commenting, addressing criticism, composing, and reflecting

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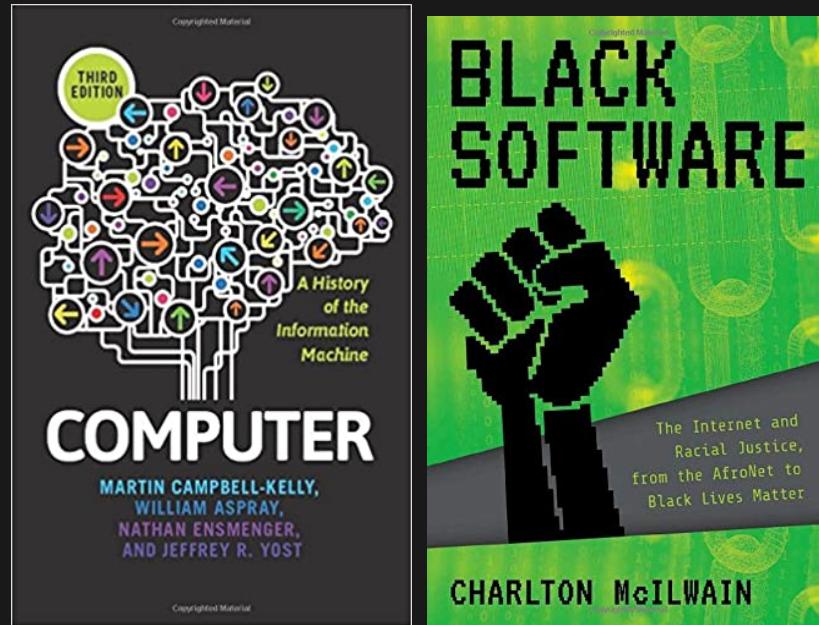
Data: the History of Computing

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writing is thinking

# 3. Textbook and Readings

Available from BrightSpace> Content> Readings, no additional \$



## Keewaytinook Mobile: An Indigenous Community-Owned Mobile Phone Service in Northern Canada

Brian Beaton, Terence Burnard, Adi Linden, Susan O'Donnell

# 3. Writing is a Process

Invention

Organization

Composition

Revision

1. **Invention:** Active reading, take notes, discuss with classmates, idea generation, trial thesis
2. **Organization:** Diagram argument, make concept map, make outlines
3. **Composition:** paragraphs, write into outlines, go back to Invention, go back to Organization, iterate, compose drafts
4. **Revision:** Peer-review, re-read, edit, correct, go back to earlier stages, polish

# 3. Real Writing

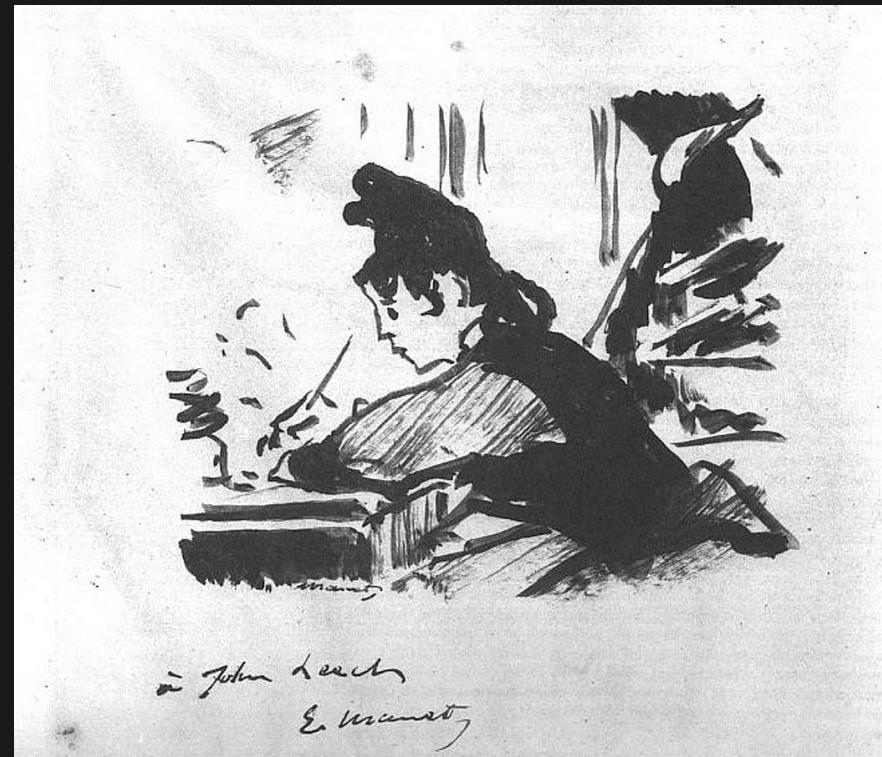
Invention

Organization

Composition

Revision

- Makes classroom writing more like writing at work / grad school
- Develops critical skills
  - Communication, analysis, logic
  - Working in diverse teams
  - Give and receive constructive criticism
- Ex: Government of Canada



Édouard Manet, Woman writing, 1863

# 4. Course Organization + Introductions

CSCI1800 students each have a **Team** and a **Tutorial** led by a TA.

- CSCI1800 (1 Prof, 14 TAs, and ~445 Students)
  - Tutorial 1 (1 TA and  $\leq$ 25 Students)
    - TUT1 Team1 ( $\leq$ 4 students)
    - TUT1 Team2
    - TUT1 Team3
    - TUT1 Team4
    - TUT1 Team5
    - TUT1 Team6
  - :
  - Tutorial 20

## 4. Course Organization + Introductions

On the course BrightSpace page, each team has its own [Discussion Area](#), also called a message board. There are discussion areas for your whole tutorial and the whole class, too.

Before you send an email asking a question about the course, you should check the "Ask a question" discussion area to see if your question has already been answered.

# 4. Course Organization + Introductions



"Making Friends," XKCD by [Randall Munroe](#)

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Think to yourself: Why is computing important?



"Making Friends," XKCD by [Randall Munroe](#)

# 4. Course Organization + Introductions

Think to yourself: Why is computing important?

Write two or three sentences, or [record a short video](#), to introduce yourself to your teammates. Tell them your reason computing is important in your BrightSpace Team [Discussion Area](#).

Pause this video and go to [dal.ca/brightspace](http://dal.ca/brightspace) now.



"Making Friends," XKCD by [Randall Munroe](#)

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## 5. Class rhythm: (A)Synchronous

Due to COVID-19, this course is being taught *online* and mostly *asynchronously*. You can succeed in CSCI1800 from any time zone.



An early “asynchronous” computer, the JOHNNIAC, from 1953 ([CHM](#)).

## 5. Class rhythm: (A)Synchronous

We will have some synchronous (= live) events using the course BrightSpace page. These events will all be recorded for later use.

You should **log in** to the course BrightSpace page and check your Dal email **every day**. This will help you keep on track.

There are no tests or exams in CSCI1800. But there are **deadlines** you must meet every week.

## 5. Class rhythm: Units

In each Unit (1-4) you will 1) study a set of readings of approximately 75 pages, 2) Complete small assignments that prepare you for writing the unit essay, and 3) write and peer review a short written essay of about 750 words.

- Unit 0: Introduction. (Sept 8--11)
- Unit 1: Before the Computer. (Sept 14--Oct 2)
- Unit 2: Creating the Computer. (Oct 5--Oct 23)
- Unit 3: Innovation and Expansion. (Oct 26--Nov 20)
- Unit 4: PCs and Networks. (Nov 23--Dec 11)

# 5. Unit N Overview

1st Week

2nd Week

3rd Week

# 5. Class rhythm: Units and Weeks

Available on BrightSpace > Course Syllabus

CSCI1800_Fall2020 : Schedule						
Unit	Week	Date	Due Dates	Tutorial	Tutorial Activity	Notes
<u><a href="#">Unit 0. Introduction</a></u>	Week1	Mon., Sep. 7,		Week1 Tutorial	None	LabourDay
		Tue., Sep. 8,				
		Wed., Sep. 9,				
		Thu., Sep. 10,	<a href="#">Open Office Hour, 10AM Atlantic and 4PM Atlantic</a>			
		Fri., Sep. 11,	Introductory post			
	Week2	Sat., Sep. 12,		Week2 Tutorial	Synchronous Practice Session: active reading / note taking	
		Sun., Sep. 13,				
		Mon., Sep. 14,	Team Charter, due 5pm Atlantic			
		Tue., Sep. 15,				
		Wed., Sep. 16,	Team Plan Unit 1, due 5pm Atlantic			
		Thu., Sep. 17,	<a href="#">Open Office Hour, 10AM Atlantic and 4PM Atlantic</a>			
		Fri., Sep. 18,				
		Sat., Sep. 19,				
		Sun., Sep. 20,				
		Mon., Sep. 21,	<a href="#">Synchronous help lecture, 4:05-5:25 Atlantic</a>			

Schedule



## 5. Class rhythm: Conclusion

- Detailed schedule always available on BrightSpace > [Course Syllabus](#)
- Detailed description of assignments always available on BrightSpace > [Course Syllabus](#)
- Every Unit will have a "Welcome" video posted on BrightSpace
- Post your questions and read answers on the "Ask a Question" Discussion Boards

# 6. Grading

- 8%: Short Writing Assignments (4)
- 20%: Teamwork—Creating writing resources (5)
- 72%: Essays—Top three out of four (3/4)
- 100%
  - Each essay is graded out of 25:
    - /10: First Draft and participation in Peer Review
    - /15: Quality of Final Draft and Cover Letter

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Bonus Marks: Students who participate in three help sessions with the Writing Centre will earn a 2% bonus mark.

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Each Assignment has its own rubric. For evaluating writing, your writing will be evaluated on:

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- Argument
- Evidence

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Each Assignment has its own rubric. For evaluating writing, your writing will be evaluated on:

- Argument
- Evidence
- Structure

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Each Assignment has its own rubric. For evaluating writing, your writing will be evaluated on:

- Argument
- Evidence
- Structure
- Review

# 6. Grading Writing

Each Assignment has its own rubric. For evaluating writing, your writing will be evaluated on:

- Argument
- Evidence
- Structure
- Review
- We also check for **Academic Integrity**, which gets its own video in [Unit 0](#)

# 6. Grading Writing

What we **are** looking for: Argument, Evidence, Structure, Review, Academic Integrity.

What about these?

- Spelling
- Grammar
- Fancy language

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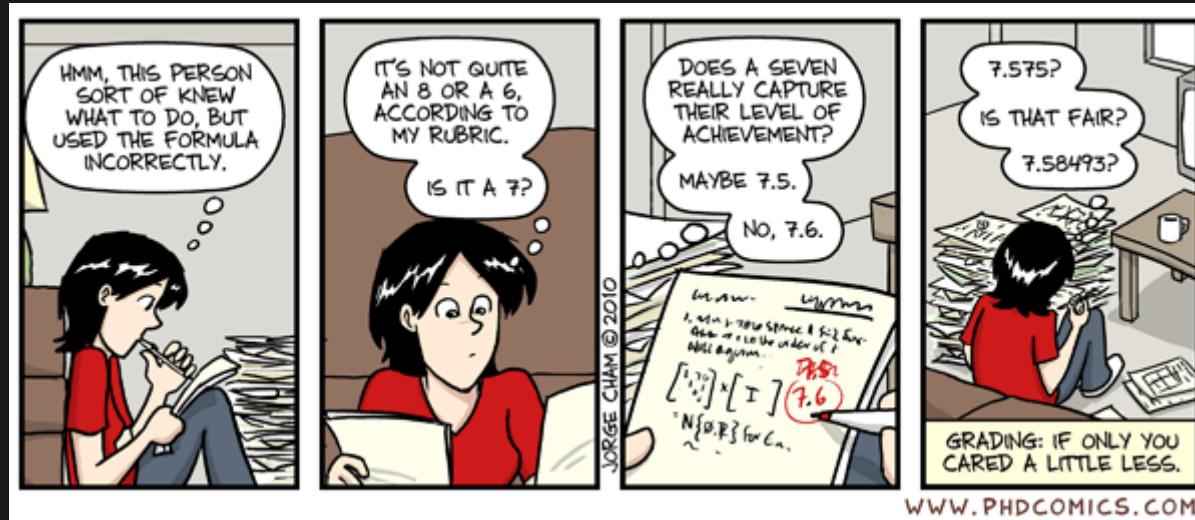
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writing is thinking

# 6. Grading: Conclusion

Grading details are listed in the course syllabus on BrightSpace

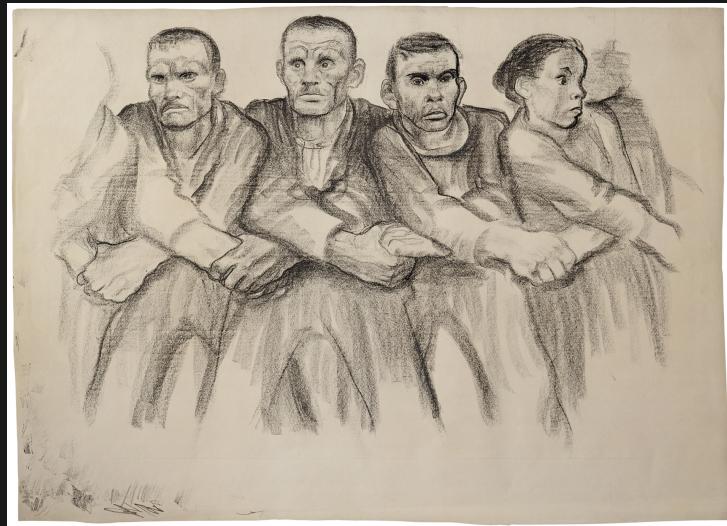
**Tip:** Read the rubric for each assignment right when you start working on it. Then you'll know exactly how you will be evaluated.



"If only" from [PhDComics](#) by Jorge Cham

## 7. Conduct

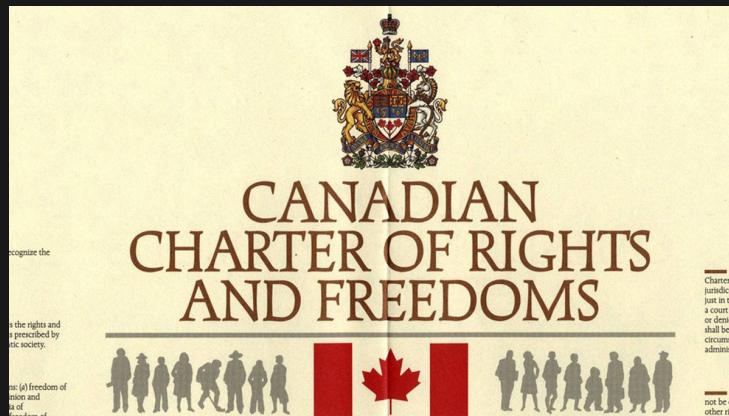
Everyone in CSCI1800 is expected to uphold the highest ethical standards. This includes fostering the FCS **Culture of Respect**. It includes acting with **Academic Integrity**.



Käthe Kollwitz, "Solidarity," 1931-1932, [Cologne Kollwitz Collection](#)

# 8. Next Steps

- Take the "Getting Started" Survey on the BrightSpace Homepage
- Get to know your team and TA in the BrightSpace Discussion areas
- Start work on your first assignment: your Team Charter. Find it in BrightSpace > Assessments > Assignments



The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

## 8. Next Steps

Think of questions to ask at my live open Office Hours:

- Thursday, Sept. 10th at 10-11AM and 4-5PM Atlantic Time
- Join on BrightSpace > Content > Video Office Hours and Breakout Rooms
- Format will be video from me, chat message from you for questions
- Can't make it? Post your question on in the Discussion Area and I'll answer it on video
- Will be recorded + posted

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# Thank you for watching!

I hope to meet as many of you as I can at Thursday's office hours!

Dr. Aaron Sidney Wright

CSCI1800 Fall 2020



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Under Unit 0: Course Introduction, Select " 1Welcome."