

CPSC290A Computer Architecture and Operating Systems

Spring 2019

MWF: 10:50-11:50am in Trexler 363

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Office Hours: MTTh 1:00 -- 2:00pm;

Office Hours: W 9:30 -- 10:30am; and
by appointment.

Syllabus

Course Synopsis

This course presents a combined introduction to the concepts of computer architecture and operating systems. In particular, we will discuss processor design, assembly and machine language, translation from assembly language to machine language, processor scheduling, memory management, virtual memory, file systems, machine level representation of data, digital logic, and processor implementation.

Required Texts

1. *Computer Systems: An integrated approach to Architecture and Operating Systems*, by

Umakishore Ramachandran and William D. Leahy. **Prerequisites**

CPSC 250. Familiarity with C++ and Unix/Linux is assumed.

Intended Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course successful students will be able to:

1. design and implement an assembler given the assembly and machine language instruction sets for a processor,
2. design and implement a simulator for a given processor architecture,
3. design and implement various functions of an operating system, including process management, memory and virtual memory management and file systems,
4. understand the design of the control unit, the arithmetic logic unit and datapaths in a processor.

Mechanics

The course will meet in class for three hours during the week. There will be two tests (on **Friday, February 15, and Friday, March 29**) in class during the semester. **The final exam is scheduled for Monday, April 29, 8:30am - 11:30am.**

Make-up tests will be available *by pre-arrangement only* in case of scheduling conflicts. After the test, makeups will be available only in case of documented medical emergencies.

Besides the exams, there will be pop quizzes in class, regular homework assignments, programming projects, and a co-curricular requirement. **No makeups will be given for the pop quizzes.**

This course expects you to spend *at least* 12 hours of work each week inside and outside of class.

Co-curricular Requirement: The Mathematics, Computer Science and Physics department offers a series of discussions that appeal to a broad range of interests related to these fields of study. These co-curricular sessions will engage the community to think about ongoing research, novel applications and other issues that face these disciplines. Each student is required to attend at least *three* of these sessions, and turn in a short paper describing the contents of the session, and his/her *critical reflections* about the topic and content. These papers are due in class within a week of the session. A paper submitted beyond a week from the event being discussed in the paper will not be accepted.

Grading

The final grade will be computed based on the grades in the quizzes, tests, the final exam, homeworks and programming projects according to the following weights.

Component	Weight	
Co-curricular	4%	
Home Works and Quizzes	10%	
Tests (2)	24%	(12% each)
Projects	46%	
Final Exam	16%	

The final course grade will be calculated as follows:

< 60	60-62	63-65	66-69	70-72	73-75	76-79	80-82	83-85	86-89	90-92	> 92
F	D-	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A

Class Attendance and Policies

Regular attendance in class is highly recommended. Regardless of attendance, students are responsible for all material covered or assigned in class.

Cell phones should be kept in your backpacks or pockets (essentially, out of sight), and turned to the silent mode throughout the duration of the class and lab periods. Please do not remove your cell phones until you are outside the classroom/lab. Similarly, during office consultations or consultations in the lab (even when it is not during regular class or lab time), your cell phones should be out of sight and in the silent mode.

If you use an electronic device such as a tablet or a laptop for note-taking or to read the textbook, the content that is open on the screen should be strictly restricted to documents and pages of relevance to the class. For example, you should not have any social media websites open in your browser window, even if it is in a tab that is not currently in focus.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to the Academic Integrity policies of Roanoke College. All work submitted for a grade is to be strictly the work of the student unless otherwise specified by the instructor. The policies as outlined in the Academic Integrity handbook will be enforced in the course.

Graded programs are subject to the Roanoke College Academic Integrity policies. Copying a program or a portion of a program (even a single line) or reading another person's program to obtain ideas for solving a problem is plagiarism. Other examples of integrity violation include writing code for someone else, using code written by someone else, telling someone else how to solve a problem or having someone tell you how to solve a problem (and using their method). These cases apply to any work that is handed in for a grade under the instructor's assumption that the work is your own. Unless specified otherwise by the instructor, discussion among students should be limited to general a solution to the assigned problem.