Syllabus
CSCI 423: Introduction to Operating Systems
Fall 2010

Instructor: Dr. Paul Ruth
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Course:

Catalog description: Study of the basic concepts of operating systems, including user interfaces, process management, state saving, interprocess communication, input/output, device drivers, timing services, memory management, file management, and system abstractions. Corequisites: None, Prerequisites: Minimum grade of C in CSCI 211 and CSCI 223, Credit(s): 3

Meeting Time: MWF 11:00AM - 11:50AM, Weir 235


Outcomes/Objective: Upon completion of this course students should be able to:

- understand the modern operating systems concepts including processes, process scheduling, IPC, memory management, I/O, and file systems.
- implement the operating systems concepts.
- evaluate the effectiveness of their implementation.

Organization:

The class will be divided into two parts.

- Operating systems concepts will be presented during lecture. You are responsible for reading the assigned sections of the textbook before the lecture on that concept.
- Hands-on experience will reinforce concepts from lecture. You are required to complete a series of projects involving the Xinu operating system. Be aware that these projects are difficult and you will not be successful if you do not start the projects early and ask the instructor for help when you are stuck. Also, be aware that the projects build upon each other and you may not be able to start a project until you have completed the previous projects.
Grading:

Exams 50%
Projects: 50%

Grading Notes:

- No makeup exams.
- The final exam is optional and comprehensive. You may use the final exam to replace any one of the other exams.
- There is no predetermined grading scale. Often a final grade greater than 90 would be an A and between 80 and 90 would be a B. However, I will adjust this scale to the particular class and will consider participation and intellectual initiative in borderline cases.
- Any problems with graded work must be brought to the instructor’s attention within one week of the work being returned in class. It is your responsibility to pickup graded work returned during classes that you did not attend. Grades will not be modified after the one week period.
- Each team have three late days that they can apply to any project without penalty. For example you may turn in one project three days late or three projects one day late. Once the late days have been used any project turned in late will receive zero credit. Keep in mind that the projects build on each other, so you will have to complete any project you do not turn in order to move on to the next project.
- In order to pass the course, you must pass both the Exam and Projects portions. Passing requires earning at least 50% of the possible score for the Exams and 50% of the possible score for Projects.
- I will return your email within 24 hours of receiving it. This means that project questions sent within 24 hours of the time a project is due may not be answered until after the project due date/time.
- All course information will be posted on the course website. You must check the website as I will be posting important information about the course.
- You may not use any unapproved resources to complete the projects. In general, you may only use generic C programming texts. You may NOT use any Xinu related sources including any Xinu materials available on the Internet, Xinu code used in previous semesters of this course (yours or anyone else’s), or any Xinu code written by anyone else (except your partner, if you have one) for this semester of this course. Any violation of this policy will be considered academic dishonesty and will handled appropriately. Due to the ease with which you can cheat on these projects there will be no tolerance for academic dishonesty in this course.