

## CS 452: Operating Systems

### Instructor

Instructor: Jim Buffenbarger  
Office: CCP-258  
Voicemail: (208) 426-3567  
Email: <mailto:buff@cs.boisestate.edu>  
WWW: <http://cswb.boisestate.edu/~buff>

### Meetings

Lectures: MoWe 3:00–4:15 CCP-259  
Office hours: MoWe 11:45–1:15 CCP-258  
or by appointment CCP-258

Lectures will be audio/video recorded, and made available, afterwards.

Our Teaching Assistant is Adam Torek:

[adamtorek@u.boisestate.edu](mailto:adamtorek@u.boisestate.edu)

TA office hours are at (this “pub” directory is explained, below):

[pub/TutorOfficeHours](#)

I am happy to answer questions by email. Please please click [here](#), or see:

[pub/doc/EmailQuestions.pdf](#)

### Catalog Description

Operating systems structure and design. Process management, concurrency and synchronization, interprocess communication, scheduling, device management, memory management, file systems and security. Case studies of multiple operating systems.

PREREQ: CS 230, CS 253, CS 321, ECE 330, and CS 155.

## Goals

Students are introduced to basic concepts of operating systems, including:

- using processes and threads
- operating system organization
- computer organization
- device management
- implementing processes and threads
- scheduling
- synchronization
- interprocess communication
- deadlock
- memory management
- virtual memory
- file management
- security
- networks

## Textbook

*Operating Systems: Three Easy Pieces*, by A. Arpaci-Dusseau and R. Arpaci-Dusseau, 2018, [online](#).

## Other Course Material

This syllabus, lecture slides, assignments, and other material is available in what we'll call our “pub” directory. It is available in three places: GitHub, Canvas, and the `onyx` cluster of computers. This directory is read-only. So, you might want to copy it, perhaps to your local computer.

The GitHub pub directory can be accessed at [GitHub](#), as shown in:

[pub/GitHub](#)

The Canvas **pub** directory can be accessed from our [Canvas](#) website, via the “Files” tab on the left sidebar.

The **onyx pub** directory can be accessed directly, by computers in our Computer Science Lab (CCP-240, CCP-241, and CCP-242).

Since **onyx.boisestate.edu** services Secure Shell (SSH) requests, you can also use SSH clients (e.g., **scp** and **sftp**) to access this **pub** directory remotely. However, beware: It contains symbolic links to parent directories, and **scp -r** will unconditionally follow them, thereby looping forever. To avoid this, use **sftp** or **tar/scp**, as needed.

In any case, the **onyx pub** directory is at:

```
~jbuffenb/classes/452/pub
```

The **onyx** cluster also has the advantage of containing all of the translators we will use.

## Grades

At the end of the semester, the Registrar requires a letter grade for each student. Accordingly, during the semester, homework and exams are evaluated, and numeric scores are assigned. Each such artifact is worth a certain number of points, and has a weight. From these scores, a student’s overall numeric/raw percentage is computed.

Collectively, a class’s raw percentages form a distribution, with a mean and standard deviation, sometimes called a Bell Curve. An algorithm normalizes these values into a “grading” distribution, with a desired mean and standard deviation of 85 and 10 (i.e., the values are “curved”). A normalized value is then mapped to a letter grade, in the conventional way. If you are interested in the gory details, click [here](#).

During the semester all of this evolving data can be found in our **pub** directory, on **onyx**, its nodes, Canvas, and GitHub.

Homework is due at 11:59PM, Mountain Time, on the day it is due. Late work is not accepted. To submit your solution to an assignment, login to a lab computer, change to the directory containing the files you want to submit, and execute:

```
submit jbuffenb class assignment
```

For example:

```
submit jbuffenb cs452 hw1
```

The `submit` program has a nice `man` page.

When you submit a program, include: the source code, sample input data, and its corresponding results.

Scores are posted in our `pub/scores` directory, as they become available. You will receive a code, by email, indicating your row in the score sheet. You are encouraged to check your scores to ensure they are recorded properly. If you feel that a grading mistake has been made, contact me as soon as possible.

The weights of homework and exams is shown in the table below:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Homework	80%
Exam	10%
Final	10%

## Homework

Several homework problems are assigned during the semester. Each asks you to develop software in the C programming language. Students work on these individually.

The rubric that will be used to grade each assignment is distributed with the assignment. Try to focus on the assignments, rather than the rubrics.

## Exams

An exam and a final are administered. These are in-class, open-note, open-textbook, and open-laptop tests. Students work on these individually.

## Attendance

In-person lecture attendance is an important part of course participation. Attendance is taken at each lecture: starting five minutes before the scheduled start time, and ending fifteen minutes after the scheduled start time. Attendance is not taken during the first week of classes, holidays, or finals week.

Attendance can affect your grade. Each absence results in a one-percent reduction of your overall normalized percentage. Since a few absences are expected, completion of BSU's on-line end-of-semester course evaluation will erase up to five absences. Since evaluations are anonymous (at least to me), I will try to remind you to email me evidence of completing one: a screenshot will do.

Attendance is administered wirelessly, via the iClicker app, available for free, from your smartphone's app store. For more information, click [here](#).

## Source-Code Documentation

Good documentation and programming style is very important. Your programs must demonstrate these qualities for full credit. Good documentation and programming style includes:

- heading comments giving: author, date, class, and description
- function/procedure comments giving description of: purpose, parameters, and return value
- other comments where clarification of source code is needed
- proper and consistent indentation
- proper structure and modularity

For more information, and examples, click [here](#).

## Academic Integrity

The University's goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces educated, literate people. Because cheating and plagiarism are at odds with that goal, those actions shall not be tolerated in any form. Academic dishonesty includes assisting a student to cheat, plagiarize, or commit any act of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism occurs when a person tries to represent another person's work as his or her own or borrows directly from another person's work without proper documentation.

If a student engages in academic dishonesty, the student may be dismissed from the class and may receive a failing grade. Other penalties may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

For much more information about academic integrity, including examples of academic dishonesty, please click [here](#). If you are unsure about a particular behavior, ask your instructor.

## Labs and Safety

Each student receives an account on the cluster of computers in the Computer Science Labs: CCP-240, CCP-241, and CCP-242. The cluster comprises a server named `onyx.boisestate.edu` and a set of nodes with shared home directories. It is remotely accessible, via SSH. The cluster runs the Linux operating system.

Physical access requires building and room access. After-hours building access, and all-hours room access, require an authenticated proximity-type student-identification card.

You are responsible for understanding and obeying lab [rules](#).

## Schedule

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Assigned</i>	<i>Due</i>	<i>Reading</i>
1	Jan 13 Mon	Introduction			1-2
	Jan 15 Wed	Processes and Processors	HW1		3-11
2	Jan 20 Mon	MLK Day			
	Jan 22 Wed				
3	Jan 27 Mon		HW2	HW1	
	Jan 29 Wed				
4	Feb 03 Mon				
	Feb 05 Wed				
5	Feb 10 Mon	Memory			12-24
	Feb 12 Wed				
6	Feb 17 Mon	Presidents' Day			
	Feb 19 Wed				
7	Feb 24 Mon	Concurrency	HW3	HW2	25-34
	Feb 26 Wed				
8	Mar 03 Mon				
	Mar 05 Wed	Exam			
9	Mar 10 Mon		HW4	HW3	
	Mar 12 Wed				
10	Mar 17 Mon	Spring Break			
	Mar 19 Wed	Spring Break			
11	Mar 24 Mon				
	Mar 26 Wed				
12	Mar 31 Mon	Input/Output Devices			35-42
	Apr 02 Wed		HW5	HW4	
13	Apr 07 Mon				
	Apr 09 Wed				
14	Apr 14 Mon				
	Apr 16 Wed				
15	Apr 21 Mon				
	Apr 23 Wed			HW5	
16	Apr 28 Mon				
	Apr 30 Wed				
17	May 05 Mon	Final: 2:30-4:30			