# 16.317: Microprocessor Systems Design I

Fall 2014

Lecture 17: Key Questions
October 17, 2014

1. What is an interrupt? What is an exception?

2. For what purposes are interrupts useful?

3. Describe the basic steps in interrupt processing.

4. What is an interrupt or exception vector? Describe briefly how the interrupt vector table functions.

5. Describe the x86 software interrupt instructions.

6. Describe the specific steps taken in x86 interrupt processing.

7. What is the difference between the two hardware interrupt inputs on x86 processors?

8. How does an x86 processor determine the appropriate interrupt vector when the INTR pin is asserted? Describe both hardware and software methods for doing so.