CS 450 MPX Project Policies
Spring 2010

GTA: Bryan Lemon **Email**: Bryan@bryanlemon.com
Website: http://bryanlemon.com/cs450
Office: 757 ESB, Desk 6
Office Hours: Wednesday: 3:00-4:45, Thursday: 1:00-2:00, All other days/times: appointment only

My office hours are subject to change. Any changes will be posted on my class website and I will notify you via e-mail. You are also welcome to email me to set up an appointment if you cannot come during my office hours. When emailing me, include CS450 in your subject line. If this is not in there, it may not be routed properly, and might be missed.

Overview: A significant portion of the CS450 course is the MPX project. You will build an operating system incrementally in groups of 3-4. The project is broken up into 6 modules, which will be due at various times throughout the semester. This project will require a significant amount of time and effort and will require you to work within a group environment.

Groups: You will work in groups for this project. You are encouraged to give me suggestions for groups. However, I might have to deviate from your suggestions when finalizing the groups. If you have any problems or issues with members of your group, you should come see me immediately. The earlier potential problems within a group are resolved the better your chances for success in this project.

My Role: I will be the primary source of help and debugging for your MPX project. Feel free to stop by my office during my office hours or email me any time with problems, questions, or appointments. I am more than happy to answer questions and look at your source code to help you identify errors via email as well as in person. It will be easier for me to assist you with debugging if you follow proper programming technique, such as using header files and symbolic constants - follow the suggestions we go over in class. I will also be responsible for testing your MPX projects and grading them. Every week, typically on Friday, I will have an MPX Project session in class.

Attendance: Attendance will be taken during all MPX sessions except those in which project demonstrations take place. Missing 3 or more classes will result in a 5% penalty on your project grade. If you must miss an MPX session, please let me know ahead of time.

Schedule: An up to date course schedule as well as announcements is available on my website.

Due Dates: The nature of this project is such that each module depends on the functionality built in the previous module. Once you fall behind it is difficult to catch up. Therefore, extensions to the due dates are highly unlikely and late submissions are strongly discouraged. If you feel you must turn in a module late, you should contact me ahead of time to get permission. Your grade will be penalized (up to 5% per day, including weekends) for being late.

Important: *It is very likely that one or more of the module due dates will land during "midterm" week or a week in which you have tests and/or assignments due in other courses-* ***it is your responsibility to plan ahead to allow enough time to complete your MPX project!*** *Please do not come to me with a list of excuses of why you could not finish a module on time and need to turn it in late. Late submissions will be accepted only in the event of extenuating circumstances, not because you had three tests, a deliverable for senior design, and an MPX module all due in the same week. I reserve the right to reject late submissions.*

Words of Advice: You should plan on beginning to work on modules as soon as you finish the previous module. Many groups tend to wait until a week before a module is due to begin working on it and end up not getting it finished by the due date. One week is not enough time to write and properly debug your code. I will help every group debug as much as I can, but I will not write your code for you, and do not expect me to help you fix major problems in your code at midnight the night before it is due. The earlier you ask me for help, the more likely it is that I will be able to help you. Remember:
Getting your code working is ultimately your responsibility!

Grading: The MPX project will constitute 40% of your class grade. The grade breakdown will approximately be the following:

Module R1 Execution	3%
Module R1 Manuals	2%
Module R2 Execution	3.5%
Module R2 Manuals	1.5%
Module R3 Execution	4%
Module R4 Execution	2%

Module R5 Execution	5%
Module R6 Execution	7%
Final Programmer’s Manual	2%
Final User’s Manual	1.5%
Coding Style	1.5%
Oral Exam – Individual Participation	4%
Group Participation	3%

Anyone who substantially fails to fulfill their requirements within their group will fail the project. I also want to you zip your entire MPX project and give it me at the time of your demo so that when you get your grade sheets back you have the opportunity to dispute your grade for up to 1 week. After that time, the grade is final and no changes will be made to it.

Temporary Manual: Modules 2 & 3 require temporary commands in order for the MPX system to progress. These temporary commands should be included in your manuals where appropriate. At the end of the semester the temporary commands should be removed and placed into a separate manual but maintain the same guidelines as the other manuals. I will go over this a little more when the time comes. The temporary manual will be graded with your final manuals.

Group Portfolio: All groups will be required to turn in at the end of the semester a portfolio which contains a copy of your grade sheet for each module as well as the code you turned in for that specific module.

Submission: On the due date for a module, I will test the functionality of your project. For Modules 1, 2 and 6 you will be required to submit a user’s manual, programmer’s manual, and temporary commands manual (only at the end). You are not required to submit your source code unless I specifically request it. At the end of the semester you must submit a CD containing your entire MPX Project (I will cover this later in the semester).

Oral Exam: During dead week, each group will participate in an oral exam that will last approximately one hour. At the time or your oral exam, you will turn in all materials and demonstrate the final version of your MPX system. You will then be asked questions about the MPX project. You are responsible for all aspects of the project, regardless of what you personally worked on and what your group got working. Failure to attend the oral exam will result in a grade of 0 on the MPX project.

Project Manual: You should read the project manual for each module, available on Dr. Hayhurst’s website and mine. The project manual has a lot of hints and pseudo code which will help you as you write your project. I will give an overview of each module on the day it is assigned and post a slide show on my website which goes over the requirements of the module. However, I will not have time to cover everything in the project manuals but you are responsible for all the material covered in the project manuals for the oral exam.

Operating Environment: The MPX project requires the C programming language and a Windows operating system (preferably Windows XP), and you must have administrator access for modules 5 and 6 (you need to install serial port emulator software). You may use any ANSI C compiler, however Turbo C is highly recommended. If you do not use Turbo C, you will need to inject assembly code into your project in order to get it to work properly which I will not provide, and cannot support.

It is most convenient if at least one member of you group has a personal laptop on which to demonstrate your project on demo days. However, there are other options. Modules 1 – 4 can be completed and demonstrated without issue on the Windows computers in the 813 ESB lab. However, for modules 5 and 6, these computers lack required software and we do not have the ability to install it on those machines.

Academic Honesty: You are expected to abide by WVU principles of academic honesty. Project work must be the original work of **your group**, not borrowed from other groups in this class or previous classes.