Spring 2024

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Course Syllabus

CSC 139:: Spring 2024 :: On-Campus

This is not the full syllabus. My full policy manual and syllabus will be posted soon and will be available to enrolled students.

This is ***an on-campus course***. Lecture content will be delivered in the classroom. Generally, lectures will not be recorded. Some lecture/demo video content will be provided as supplementary content. There are multiple video lectures that cover the material using our textbook from other instructors if you need offline review. Assessment for this course consists of a single midterm, a final exam, a number of project assignments, and other smaller homework assignments.

Special Note for Week 1 of Spring 2024 owing to the CFA Strike.

I expect week one to be remote, however, I need written confirmation from the department chair before I can announce this. Note that I have discussed this with the chair and have verbal confirmation, hence, you should expect that week one will be remote. Until I have confirmed written permission, expect that class will be held, however, all of week 1 will be a discussion of C programming for this course.

Lecture

M/W 5:30 pm - 6:45 pm Riverside Hall 1015

Enrolled Students

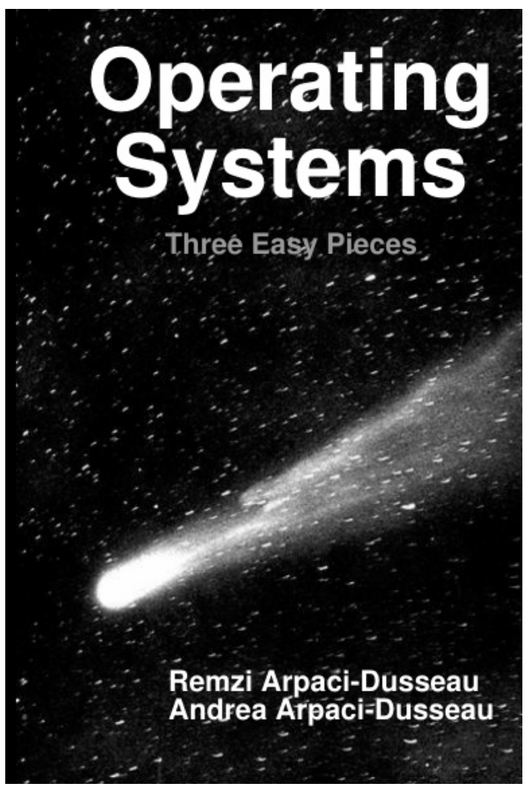
All course communication must be via Canvas messaging. Please do not send me email regarding this course if you are enrolled in this course. There are only a few exceptions to this which will be discussed in class.

Un-Enrolled Students

If you need to send me an email then please send it from your official CSUS email address. Email sent from outside the university is filtered and may not be read in a timely manner, if at all.

Textbooks

We will be using the freely available textbook Operating Systems : Three Easy Pieces from the University of Wisconsin Madison. This book is inexpensive if you wish to purchase a print copy, however, completely free if you prefer the e-version of the book.



Course Programming

Most programming in this course will be in the C programming language. All C programs must be written to run on a modern Linux operating system. A virtual machine running in Virtual Box will be fine for this. If you are using an M1 based Mac then you may need to complete any C exercises in the university computer labs. We will discuss the requirements in detail in class. You do not need to install anything now.

C Programming References

While there are numerous references to C programming in Linux online, it can get pretty overwhelming. I will try to provide some curated references shortly for those of you who do not have much experience with C programming.

The following free reference should give you a broad overview of C as used in this course.

1. Learning GNU C

Projects

The projects will be either very similar to or taken directly from the OSTEP Projects GitHub site. In particular, as is typical in an OS course, you will write a simple Unix shell as well as complete projects related to topics such as virtual memory, threads, and/or process scheduling.

Smaller Homework Assignments

The smaller homework assignments may be taken directly from the OSTEP Homework web-site. Many will have you download simple python programs to explore various topics in operating systems.

Grading

Projects and Homework 40%
Final Exam 35%
Midterm 25%