

Course Syllabus

SYLLABUS

CSCE 312-200/500-503 Computer Organization

Spring 2024

(All course materials are on Canvas)

INSTRUCTOR

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Teaching Assistant

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Grader

Mohit Sarin - mohitsarin26@tamu.edu (<mailto:mohitsarin26@tamu.edu>)

Lectures

Section 200: TR 12:45 PM-2:00 PM(HRBB 126)

Section 500,501,502,503: TR 2:20 PM-3:35 PM(HRBB 124)

Labs

Section 200: TR 8:25 AM-9:15 AM(ZACH 590)

Section 500: TR 8:25 AM-9:15 AM(ZACH 598)

Section 501: TR 9:35 AM-10:25 AM(ZACH 598)

Section 502: TR 11:35 AM-12:25 PM(ZACH 598)

Section 503: TR 12:45 PM-1:35 PM(ZACH 598)

Peer Teachers

Section 200: Payton Knezek(prknezek@tamu.edu (<mailto:prknezek@tamu.edu>))

Section 500: Audry Estrada(a.estrada.agg13@tamu.edu (<mailto:a.estrada.agg13@tamu.edu>))

Section 501: Nebiyu Ersabo(nebiyou@tamu.edu (<mailto:nebiyou@tamu.edu>))

Section 502: Ethan Langford(ethanxlangford@tamu.edu (<mailto:ethanxlangford@tamu.edu>))

Section 503: Katelyn Clark(kaclark219@tamu.edu (<mailto:kaclark219@tamu.edu>))

1 Course Information

1.1 Course Description

CSCE 312 is an introductory course on computer organization. It provides insights into the fundamentals of organization and structure of computer systems. One of the objectives of this course is to teach critical thinking, how to learn, and how to communicate technical concepts in the area of computer systems. These objectives will be met through lectures, challenging assignments, regular quizzes, and a final examination. The course consists of materials on the following topics: introduction to computer systems, data representation, machine language, processor architecture, memory hierarchy, linking, exception control flow, virtual memory, system level I/O, and network programming.

Several laboratory assignments will provide hands-on experience on some of the above topics. Projects allow students to implement material taught in the lectures and laboratory.

1.2 Catalog Description

Introduction to computer systems from programmer's perspective: simple logic design, data representation and processor architecture, programming of processors, memory, control flow, input/output, and performance measurements; hands-on lab assignments.

1.3 Co-requisites

CSCE 221 Data Structures and Algorithms. You should have a clear understanding of data structures, including list, stacks, and queues. Your familiarity with recursion and exposure to complexity analysis are desirable. Lab assignments will require basic computer skills in implementing the above topics.

1.4 Textbook

- Primary textbook: *Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective*, Randal E. Bryant and David O'Hallaron, 3rd Ed, Prentice Hall, 2015, ISBN 10:0-13-409266-X

Companion site: <http://csapp.cs.cmu.edu> ⇨ [\(http://csapp.cs.cmu.edu/\)](http://csapp.cs.cmu.edu/).

- Text for logic design: *Digital Design*, 2nd Ed, by Frank Vahid, Wiley publication, 2010

Second edition companion site: [http://bcs.wiley.com/he-bcs/Books?](http://bcs.wiley.com/he-bcs/Books?action=index&itemId=0470531088&bcsId=5568)

[action=index&itemId=0470531088&bcsId=5568](http://bcs.wiley.com/he-bcs/Books?action=index&itemId=0470531088&bcsId=5568) ⇨ [http://bcs.wiley.com/he-bcs/Books?](http://bcs.wiley.com/he-bcs/Books?action=index&itemId=0470531088&bcsId=5568)

- Optional reference: *The C Programming Language*, 2nd Ed. (ANSI C version) or later, Kernighan & Ritchie, Prentice Hall, will be helpful in learning the operating system and programming environment.

2 Course Topics, Quizzes and Assignments

Students are required to read the main textbook and other assigned materials as announced time to time. It is highly recommended to be familiar with the material ahead of the corresponding lecture. This course will focus on the topics shown below, which may not be covered in this order, or at all, if time does not permit it. The length of time to cover a topic and the corresponding assignment dates may vary.

Course Topics and Corresponding Textbook Chapters

Week Topics	Reading Materials	
	Chapter Numbers	Milestones
1-2 Computer Systems	Bryant Ch. 1	
2-5 Data representation, Arithmetic, Logic Design	Vahid Ch.1-5	Q1, HW1, HW2
5-7 Machine language	Bryant Ch. 3	Q2, HW3

7-10	Processor architecture	Bryant Ch. 4	Q3, HW4, project1
10-12	Memory hierarchy	Bryant Ch. 6	Q4, HW5
12-13	Virtual memory	Bryant Ch 10	Q5
14	System level I/O	Bryant Ch 10	Project2
15	Review		Final Exam

3 Grading Scheme and Course Requirements

3.1 Attendance Policy

Class attendance is strongly recommended. Students are responsible for any material missed. Some material covered in the lectures may not be found in the textbook or the slides. Missed exams, quizzes and class presentations may be made up only for a university-excused absence. Other special situations must be discussed with the instructor **in advance** of the exam.

3.2 Grading

The course consists of lectures, quizzes, homeworks, lab assignments, projects and final examination. The grade will be computed as follows:

Course Grading

Projects	15%
Pop Quiz/Homework	15%
Laboratory Assignments	20%
Quizzes	25%
Final exam	25%

Extra credit assignments and extra credit for significant class participation may be offered. Letter grades will be assigned as follows: 90-100% A, 80-89% B, 70-79% C, 60-69% D, < 60% F.

3.3 Examinations

The quizzes will be held in class with exact dates determined during the semester. Note that there is no mid-term exam. The quizzes are scheduled after each topic is completed. The quizzes and final exam will generally test your knowledge of assignment material, so you are responsible for mastering **all** lab, homework, and project material submitted with other partners, as if you did all the work by yourself. The quizzes and final exam will be closed book and closed notes (unless otherwise stated). The nature of the course material is such that the final exam must be cumulative.

3.4 Assignments

Homework, lab exercises and project are substantial assignments.

Homework Assignments: Homework will be assigned sporadically, typically consisting of end-of-chapter exercises. Homework assignments can be carried out by one person, unless stated otherwise. Assignments are expected to be completed in one to two weeks, as specified by the due date.

Laboratory Exercises: Labs are intended to prepare you to tackle the projects, and you will typically be able to complete labs during the assigned lab period. Written lab work will be accepted up to the beginning of the following lab period. To obtain credit for a lab you typically must obtain a “check-off” from your teaching assistant, signifying that you completed the work during the scheduled lab time. You are responsible for attending lab and demonstrating to your lab instructor that you have completed the work.

Course Projects: One or more course projects will integrate most concepts covered during the semester, but are more open-ended than regular assignments. A written proposal and a final report will be required. The final report and program source code will be due by the announced deadline. The projects will be carried out by a group of two to four people. You are encouraged to form groups as early as possible.

Course labs and projects will involve programming and solving problems in computer organization in C or C++ and the SystemC language. All tools are run on departmental UNIX/Linux and Windows PC

systems.

Assignments will be placed on the course web page. The correct approach is to start working on assignments as early as possible and contact us when you encounter difficulties. In general, the closer to the deadline you request our assistance the harder it might be to obtain our help.

3.5 Deadline Policy

Turn in all work by the established deadline. In case you have difficulties finishing an assignment contact the TA or the instructor before the deadline. Late work can be accepted only under circumstances beyond student's control and after arrangement with the TA or instructor, prior to the deadline. **Note:** work turned-in on time is eligible for partial credit. It will always be better to turn work in by the deadline, as trying to "perfect" it and turning it in late will give you no points at all.

3.6 Submission of Work and Late Submission Policy

All assignments/deliverables must be submitted electronically, by the due date and time, using the turn-in procedure on CSNET. Late submission beyond the cutoff will not be accepted in general, unless a University sanctioned excuse is provided ahead of time. A student will earn points when he/she submits the assignment on time, by the partial credit policy. Note that email submissions will not be accepted (they will be ignored without notice). You have to follow the submission and media policies and guidelines published on the course web site.

In general, late submission will be penalized with a loss of 25% of the total points earned per day late.

Partial credit will be given based on the work submitted.

3.7 Re-grading Policy

A student can request re-grading of assignments and exams, if he/she believes that the points assigned are inconsistent with the quality and merits of the submitted work. To request re-grading you have to follow the guidelines below.

1. Re-grading requests must be submitted AT MOST ONE WEEK AFTER the item has been graded and returned to the student and solutions have been made public. After this time, NO re-grading requests will be honored.

2. Re-grading requests must be as specific as possible and must be accompanied by a reasonable amount of justification and documentation. Requests must be in written form for major assignments and exams.
3. E-mails must be sent to TAs and the instructor within the one week time limit.

3.8 Excused Absences and Make-up Policy

Make-ups for assignments and exams will be given only for university-excused absences. Prior arrangements with the instructor must be made when feasible and official verification of circumstances necessitating the absence will be required, as permitted by the Texas A&M University Student Rules (<http://student-rules.tamu.edu> (<http://student-rules.tamu.edu/>)).

3.9 Course Conduct and Academic Integrity

Each assignment will state the number of people who can work together in a group. Some assignments will be done by students individually. Partners will turn in a single assignment paper (with each partner's name and section number on it) and each partner will receive the same grade. You are also free to work individually. *Acceptable collaboration* with students not on your team (or for an individual assignment) includes: (1) discussing the assigned problems to understand their meaning, (2) discussing possible approaches to assigned problems, or (3) discussing general programming principles in the solution of programming problems or UNIX system features that will help solve the problem. However, you must explicitly acknowledge in your submission any substantive help received from someone during the course of the preparation of your solution.

Unacceptable collaboration on homework includes: (1) copying (largely verbatim use) of physical papers or computer files, or (2) submission of solutions that are jointly authored, or authored either wholly or in part by other individuals not on your team.

In general, the strategy and approach of solutions may be developed jointly but all actual solutions must be constructed and written up by individual teams. No code may be shared between teams. For written assignments, solutions may be *sketched* out with other teams, however each team must construct the final form of their solution individually and write-up their own solution. You should make sure all of your files are properly secured since you may be responsible if someone copies your files.

Should questions arise during the course of working on a problem, please feel free to contact the instructor either by telephone, electronic mail, or by an office visit. In principle, if you work with others in good faith and are honest and generous with your attributions of credit you will have no problems.

4 Academic Misconduct

This course is governed by the Aggie Code of Honor and Texas A&M University Student Rules (<http://student-rules.tamu.edu> (<http://student-rules.tamu.edu/>)). This includes academic misconduct such as plagiarism and cheating. The penalties range from a zero grade on an assignment to expulsion from the university. The instructor of this course has had students expelled for scholastic dishonesty.

Aggie Honor Code: An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do.

Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the Texas A&M University community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor System. For additional information, please visit <http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu> (<http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/>). On all course work, assignments, and examinations at Texas A&M University, the following Honor Pledge shall be preprinted and signed by the student:

On my honor, as an Aggie, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work.

5 Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Cain Hall, Room B118, or 979-845-1637. For additional information, see <http://disability.tamu.edu> (<http://disability.tamu.edu/>). If you need accommodation, identify yourself to the instructor in a timely manner.

6 Copyrights

The materials used in this course are copyrighted. By "materials," we mean all documents and Web site contents generated for this class, including but not limited to syllabi, lecture materials, problems, and readings. Their usage is limited to your private personal use. Any other use requires permission of the copyright holders.