

Computer Systems Organization

Fall 2017

CS 463-1

Online/Tue 5-6:15

PM 103

Instructor: Dr. Reva Freedman, PM-558/PM-554

Email: rfreedman@niu.edu

Phone: Faculty offices do not have phones. In emergency (i.e., if email not available), call the CSCI office at (815) 753-0378, and they will forward a message.

Office hours: TTh 3:30-4:45 PM, Wed 4-4:45 PM, or by appointment (no other times)

Course web site: Most course materials will be on Blackboard.

An overview is available at <http://faculty.cs.niu.edu/~freedman/463/>

TA: Britany Cordell, PM-356, no phone,
z1773287@students.niu.edu,
office hours: MWF 1:15-3:15 PM, or by appointment

Textbook: Null and Lobur, *Essentials of Computer Organization and Architecture*, fourth edition (recommended only)

Course objectives: Students will learn the basics of computer hardware and related topics that will be useful to them as software professionals.

Contacting the instructor: The best way to contact me is in person, followed by email. I will be happy to talk to you about questions or concerns at any time. I encourage you to address small problems before they become big problems, not the day before the exam.

I try to respond to email by the next business day, but there are occasional exceptions. Questions that can be answered from reference material may not be answered. Questions requiring major debugging are best handled in person.

Late-breaking news, e.g., errors in assignments or weather emergencies, will usually be posted on Blackboard. I encourage you to check it every morning.

Your TA is generally your best first reference for homework issues.

Exams: There will be three exams. Exams will be closed-book, closed-notes. Exams will be based on the slides and assignments. A review sheet will be posted for the slides. The midterms will be on Tue. Oct. 3 and Tue. Nov. 7 at 5 PM. The final will be on Thu. Dec. 14 at 4 PM. The final will not be comprehensive.

Put your four-letter ID (see below for definition) in uppercase at the top of each exam or other submitted hardcopy.

Exams will be conducted in accordance with the department's academic integrity policy. Simple calculators will be permitted when relevant, but not required (a detailed calculator policy will be posted). If you bring a calculator, a scientific calculator will be more useful. Eating is not permitted in the classroom.

You are expected to take the exams on the assigned time and date. Missing an exam is an extremely serious matter: makeup exams will only be given if *all* of the following requirements are satisfied: (a) an unavoidable reason (e.g. car crash), (b) advance notification, (c) written documentation, (d) permission of instructor, (e) for final exam, permission of department.

If you have another final exam at the same time, please let me know ASAP. Also please notify me ASAP if you meet the university's criterion for rescheduling a final exam, namely that you have three finals on the same day and this course is the highest-numbered of the three. The university deadline for scheduling a makeup final is Monday of the last week of classes. Documentation is required to schedule a makeup final.

Other schedule information: Check the website (either directly or through its Blackboard pointer) for detailed schedule information. There will be a couple of optional lectures, also on Tuesdays at 5 PM, for the more difficult concepts. These are optional (they will follow the same content as the slides) but recommended, based on the opinion of previous students. They are tentatively scheduled for Tue. Oct. 10 and Tue. Oct. 17. See the website and Blackboard for final details on these.

Assignments: There will be 8–10 assignments. The assignments will be on Blackboard, usually on Wed. or Thu. so you will have about a week for each. Assignments must be turned in on Blackboard by the deadline (usually 11:59 PM on Wed., but occasionally a different day), using the assigned answer sheet and correctly named, to be considered on time. I suggest you submit them by 11:57 PM to ensure they are received on time.

Assignments turned in 24 hours early (i.e., usually by 11:59 PM on Tues.) will receive 10 points extra credit. Assignments turned in up to 24 hours late (i.e., usually 11:59 PM Thu.) will be penalized 10%. Assignments turned in from 24 to 48 hours late (i.e., usually 11:59 PM Fri.) will be penalized 20%. No assignments will be accepted more than 48 hours late. In general, there are no waivers of the late penalty or extensions beyond this period.

Do not use the Blackboard comment function; instead, if you have comments to send, put them on the name/z-id lines of your answer sheet.

If you find you have made a mistake, you may resubmit once before the deadline. The later submission time will count with regard to whether you receive extra credit.

Assignments that do not follow the rules (wrong format, missing files, extra files) may be penalized in addition to the above rules.

If you believe your assignment has been graded incorrectly, you must see the professor or the T.A., as appropriate, within a week after the assignments have been returned.

Assignments: Submit your answers on the given answer sheet, following the rules below.

1) Replace the string 'anssheet' with the first four letters of your last name in lowercase, e.g, the first week's answer sheet will be 463-2017b-hw1-xxxx.xls, where xxxx = the first four letters of your last name in lowercase. If your last name is less than four letters long, then use your full last name. If your last name contains a blank, use only the part before the blank. If you and another student have the same first four letters, I will give you a different four-letter ID.

- 2) Also put your name and z-number in the specified slots at the top of the answer sheet.
- 3) The answer sheet is in .xls format. Save it in the same format, or .xlsx if you prefer. Do not use any other format. (You can use any version of Excel or Open Office; just make sure you save the answer sheet in an appropriate format.)
- 4) Do not add extra lines to the answer sheet or otherwise change the format unless it's obviously necessary. Occasionally there will be a calculation or diagram that requires extra lines, but in general I have tried to do all the formatting for you to save you hassle and typing. Please help your TA out by not changing the formatting or the file format. (These items will usually occur at the end of the assignment to make life easier for your TA.)

Special circumstances: Students with special needs (disability accommodation, religious observances, required military service, major illness or other unexpected events) are encouraged to contact the instructor as soon as possible. Having a lot of work for your other classes, being busy at your job or other NIU activities, and network problems are *not* special circumstances; they are normal circumstances that everyone has.

The instructor will provide all disability accommodations to which you are entitled by law. If you need an accommodation for this class, you must provide a notification letter from the Disability Resource Center. If you wish to take your exams at the DRC office, you must also follow DRC regulations with regard to exam scheduling. Therefore you should contact the DRC as soon as possible. They are located on the 4th floor of the Health Services Building, and can be reached at 815-753-1303 or drc@niu.edu.

Academic honesty: You are expected to do your own work on the homework, programs and exams. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, copying work from other students, copying work from other textbooks, copying work from the Internet, or helping others to do the same. All cheating will result in the filing of an academic misconduct form and will affect your course grade, with the possibility of failing the course and losing your student job. A first offense will usually result in a penalty of two letter grades. A second offense may result in your expulsion from the university. We may use mechanized comparison on the assignments.

Grading: The course grade will be based on the exams and assignments. The exams will count 60% of your grade (20% each). The assignments will count 40% of your grade. The assignments will be weighted according to length and difficulty. The grading scheme will be as follows (grades will not be curved or rounded):

Grade	Average
A	≥ 90
A-	≥ 89
B+	≥ 87
B	≥ 80
C+	≥ 77
C	≥ 70
D	≥ 60
F	< 60