

Syllabus

Instructor

Dr. Kostas Kalpakis
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Class homepage: <http://www.csee.umbc.edu/~kalpakis/Courses/621/>
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 4:00pm-5:00pm, and by appointment.

Meeting Time and Place

Tuesday and Thursday 2:30pm-3:45pm
Room AC IV 014

Assistant: Namita Sapre, Room ITE 353
Phone: 410-455-8936, Email: namita2@umbc.edu.
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 5:00pm-6:00pm.

Important Dates

- Midterm Exam, October 29, 2009, 2:30pm-3:45pm.
- Final Exam, December 17, 2009, 1:00pm-3:00pm.

Prerequisites CMSC-421 or permission of the instructor.

Texts. The required text is: “Distributed Systems: Principles and Paradigms, Second Edition” by Andrew S. Tanenbaum and Maarten Van Steen, published by Prentice Hall, 2007. In addition, a number articles and notes will be made available by the instructor.

Tentative List of Topics.

- Architectures of Distributed Operating Systems
- Foundations of Distributed Operating Systems
- Distributed Mutual Exclusion
- Distributed Deadlock Detection

- Distributed File Systems
- Distributed Shared Memory
- Distributed Scheduling
- Distributed Systems Security
- Selected topics.

Required Work

Required work consists of (1) taking the midterm and final exams, (2) homework and project assignments. Further, you are expected to actively participate in class discussions.

There will be a number of homework assignments. Some may require use of computer systems. Homework assignments are to be done individually by each student. Each homework assignment will be due at the beginning of class on the date specified. No late homeworks will be accepted, unless University Policy states otherwise.

In addition to homework assignments, there will be one or more project assignments requiring substantial amount of work. It will involve both theoretical and practical issues in modern operating systems. The projects must be carried out by a small team (3-4) students. No late projects will be accepted, unless University Policy states otherwise. Additional details regarding projects will be provided by the instructor during the semester.

There will be a midterm exam and a comprehensive final exam. All the exams will take place in class and will be closed-books.

Facilities. You will have access to the facilities and software available in the CSEE department. All computer work should be runnable on UMBC computers.

Grading Policy

The course grades will be determined as follows. For each course activity in Table 1, each student will receive an activity score, which will be the average of the student's scores on the assignments for that activity. An activity score is a number in the range $0 \dots 100$. A term score will be computed by taking the weighted sum of the activity scores, using the relative weights given in Table 1. The instructor will convert term scores into letter grades by using the following mapping: $[90, 100] \Rightarrow A$, $[80, 90) \Rightarrow B$, $[70, 80) \Rightarrow C$, $[60, 70) \Rightarrow D$, $[50, 60) \Rightarrow P$, $[0, 50) \Rightarrow F$.

Make-up exams are possible only under University Policy. You should make prior arrangements with the instructor if you expect to miss an exam. Incomplete grades will be issued only under those extreme situations described by University Policy for granting incompletes. Failure to complete assignments on time is not a sufficient reason for an incomplete. **Necessary**

Activity	Weight
Homeworks and Projects	25%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	45%
Total	100%

Table 1: Course Activities and their relative weights.

but not sufficient conditions to pass the course are as follows: you must have a project and homework activity score of at least 50 points, and at least 30 points for each exam, including the final exam.

Academic Integrity Policy

By enrolling in this course, each student assumes the responsibilities of an active participant in UMBC's scholarly community in which everyone's academic work and behavior are held to the highest standards of honesty. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and helping others to commit these acts are all forms of academic dishonesty, and they are wrong. Academic misconduct could result in disciplinary action that may include, **but is not limited to**, suspension or dismissal. To read the full Student Academic Conduct Policy, consult the UMBC Student Handbook, the Faculty Handbook, or the UMBC Policies section of the UMBC Directory.

There is no tolerance for academic dishonesty in this course. Any and all academic dishonesty acts will be treated severely, as prescribed in the UMBC's Student Academic Conduct Policy.