CSCI A290 – Tools for Computing: System Programming with C and Unix
CSCI A590 – Topics in Programming: System Programming with C and Unix

Instructor: Jeff Whitmer, Senior Lecturer **Email Address:** jwhitmer@iu.edu **Office Phone #:** 812-855-3974

Office Hours: By Appointment **Office:** Luddy Hall 2050 [IF2050]

Regular Class Meeting: Monday/Wednesday 12:45pm – 2:00pm **Location:** Luddy Hall 1019 (IF1019)

Course Description: The importance of a working knowledge of C and the Unix system environment is as important now as it has even been. The explosive growth of embedded systems and the "Internet of Things" makes the power of direct access to system hardware and truly compiled executables with small resource footprints especially important. The student has the opportunity to learn the fundamental features of C including data types, control structures, basic syntax, and compiling. There is also the opportunity to become familiar with the Unix operating environment as well as the emacs editor, which is the preferred editor used in the course.

Learning Objectives: When you complete this course, you should have a very basic understanding of C, the unix environment, emacs as an editor, and some basic programming standards.

Course Requirements: Attendance: 5% [Attendance considered mandatory and taken]

ACTIVE Course Engagement: 10%

Quizzes/CATs/MINIs/JITs: 10%

Individual Homework PROGRAMS: 25%

Individual Homework ASSIGNMENTS: 50%

Texts: No required texts for this course. Extensive online research will be done instead.

Course Policies: All key course policies can be found at: https://homes.luddy.indiana.edu/classes/fall2025/csci/a290-C-jwhitmer/disclaimer.html

Grading: Standard 90-80-70-60 scale with top and bottom 2.5% representing +/- grade. Scale can drop at the end of the course but will never rise.

P/F, W, I Grades: All students are assumed to be in the course for a grade. **Automatic "W"** date is published online and will be reviewed as it approaches. **Incompletes** are only possible if: 1) The work for the course is substantially completed, and 2) The work is of passing quality.

Attendance: This is a 100% in person course. Attendance will be recorded and is considered mandatory.

Make-up Exams: There are no exams in the course.

Late Assignments: No late work is accepted for credit.

Schedule of Assignments: All scheduled assignments and other crucial course information can be found on the course website: https://homes.luddy.indiana.edu/classes/fall2025/csci/a290-C-jwhitmer/index.html

Send any questions to jwhitmer@iu.edu