CS334 Advanced Introduction to Computer Organization and Architecture

Spring 2016 Hybrid Internet Based: 4 Hours, 4 Credits

INTERNET BASED
Three proctored exams will be held during the semester. Specific windows of availability are on the course schedule.

SECTION Information: http://webspace.cs.odu.edu/~ibl/csschedule.php?semester=spr165

Instructor: C. Boyle
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Course: https://www.blackboard.odu.edu http://www.cs.odu.edu/~cs334

This is NOT a standard normal course. This course is a Hybrid INTERNET based course. This web-based course requires considerable maturity and independent responsibility on the part of the student.

Lecture 4 hours; 4 credits The course satisfies both the CS170 and CS270 requirements for the BSCS degree at Old Dominion University. Topics include: number representation, base conversion, Boolean algebra, combinatorial circuits, arithmetic units, registers, memory, hardwired and microprogrammed control units, architecture of typical microcomputers, the development of systems from basic components, and performance of competing architectures. This course satisfies the requirements of both CS 170 and 270. This web-based course requires considerable maturity and independent responsibility on the part of the student.

Prerequisites: 1. CS150 or an equivalent course in a high level language 2. MATH 163 or equivalent
Students will need to have prior programming experience as well as being prepared in mathematics at least through pre-calculus. The background requirement is firm as many of our explanations will be in terms that will only make sense to those with programming experience and we will also assume the students are proficient in algebra. Students must be comfortable using the Internet, e-mail and software, including a word processor.
Students must be highly disciplined and motivated in the art of self-learning. This includes being able to efficiently read, absorb, and retain new information, as well as being fully capable of studying and understanding new concepts and technical ideas in a timely and independent manner.

Course dynamics, attendance & conduct
This is primarily an Internet based course, and it will contain far fewer hours of lecture than a normal course. The primary purpose of our lecture time will be to introduce the course initially, and then to cover the next module that we will study. Recorded lectures will be made available for replay by the instructor as the course proceeds. Additional lectures may be scheduled via Adobe Connect later in the semester as we examine some core concepts of the course materials. The lectures and the materials on the web are meant as a supplement to the text which is the primary source of material for this course. Most of the direct communication between the instructor and

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individual students will be by email or telephone. The student will have to initiate this contact as needed, I will normally respond to email within 48 hours Monday through Friday. Online office hours will be held regularly during our allotted class time, starting in the second week of classes (Friday, Jan 22) via an Adobe Connect link on the instructors home page.

**Course Topics:** This course consists of five parts covering the chapters of our textbook with respect to the layered abstract computing model introduced within the preface (and further illustrated in the course map available on the course website). Further we will evaluate hardware performance. In order to do this we will study binary and hexadecimal numbers, data representation and performance metrics as well as Amdahl’s Law. Prior exposure to C++ is assumed or required. We will study and understand and be able to describe a von Neumann Architecture at various levels included in our studies, including application programs, C++ level (high level languages), assembler language level, machine language level, and gate level. We will study and understand the CPU algorithm and the control process necessary to implement it. Study information representation in terms of binary and hexadecimal number systems, data representation at various levels of abstraction and performance metrics and hardware performance.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS**


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**Grading**

- Homework Assignments: 10%
- Online Blackboard Quizzes: 10%
- Exams (4 total)
  - Exam 1: 20%
  - Exam 2: 20%
  - Exam 3: 30%
  - Exam 4: 10%

**Grading Scale**

There are no ‘curves’ in grading. Final grades are calculated exactly, using the formula above. There will be no ‘-‘ grades given. Grading scale follows: (percentages listed are approximate & subject to change (by no more than 10%).

- 90-100  A
- 87-89   B+
- 80-86   B
- 77-79   C+
- 70-76   C

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67-69  D+
60-66  D
0-59   F

BlackBoard
☑ We will use the BlackBoard site for this course actively throughout the semester.
☑ I will post important announcements on our Blackboard site,
☑ Use the Blackboard discussion forum to post questions of a general manner, and to help other students in the class. Please participate in the class forums.

Academic Integrity
By attending Old Dominion University you have accepted the responsibility to abide by the honor code. If you are uncertain about how the honor code applies to any course activity, you should request clarification from the instructor. The honor code is as follows:
“I pledge to support the honor system of Old Dominion University. I will refrain from any form of academic dishonesty or deception, such as cheating or plagiarism. I am aware that as a member if the academic community, it is my responsibility to turn in all suspected violators of the honor system. I will report to Honor Council hearings if summoned.”

Students may still provide legitimate assistance to one another. You are encouraged to form study groups to discuss course topics. Students should avoid discussions of solutions to ongoing assignments and should not, under any circumstances, show or share code solutions for an ongoing assignment.
Please see the ODU Honor Council’s webpage at http://orgs.odu.edu/hc/ for concrete examples of what constitutes cheating, plagiarism, and unauthorized collaboration. All students are responsible for knowing the rules. If you are unclear about whether a certain activity is allowed or not, please contact the instructor. The honor code will be strictly enforced. To see the honor code and the definition of cheating go to http://orgs.odu.edu/hc/.

Homework/Assignments policy
Late Assignment Policy
Any assignment submitted after its deadline is considered late. Assignments that are submitted late will not be graded, and no credit will be awarded for a late assignment.
Homework/Assignments are to be submitted as instructed - typically via Blackboard, before the due date. To be clear: Late submissions will not be accepted.
Students must be highly disciplined and motivated in the art of self-learning. This includes being able to efficiently read, absorb, and retain new information, as well as being fully capable of studying and understanding new concepts and technical ideas in a timely and independent manner.
Quizzes are administered via Blackboard. Quizzes expire on the due date, and cannot be taken after they have expired and become unavailable.

Communication /EMAIL
Students should activate their Old Dominion e-mail accounts and check them every day. If a student chooses to have his/her messages forwarded to another account, it is the student’s responsibility to take the necessary steps to have them forwarded.
☑ Our primary means of communication will be via email or on the blackboard forum.
☑ You must use your University email to contact me. The instructor will not respond to email other than your official ODU student email account.

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You must include your course name and number in the subject line of your email. This will allow me to identify who you are, what class you are in, and answer your question quickly.

Make-ups
Make-ups for graded activities (other than exams) may be possible only with a valid written medical or university excuse, and then only at the instructors discretion. It is the student’s responsibility to give the instructor the written excuse and to arrange for any makeup work to be done. A makeup exam may be different (and possibly more difficult) than the regularly scheduled exam. You are encouraged to inform the instructor of conflicts ahead of time, so that alternative arrangements may be arranged (ahead of time) if possible.

Make-ups for exams is not allowed.
The return of exams for grading, feedback, and release of exam solutions for review have all been negatively impacted by extreme weather conditions in the previous semesters. To mitigate these effects on our studies, and to offer you more flexibility in arranging for and taking the proctored exams – exams will be available for you to take, anytime within a specific two week window of opportunity. These time frames are clearly stated on the course schedule on this syllabus.
Make-ups for exams is not allowed. You must schedule an appointment with your proctor, and take your proctored exam within this time frame. There are no extensions for any reason. The solutions to the exam will be posted for review – immediately following the testing period. Note that you should schedule your exam early enough so that if circumstances arise, you can still re-schedule and take it within the authorized time span.

| Exam 1 | - - PROCTORED Available Mon, Feb 1st thru Mon, Feb 15th |
| Exam 2 | - - PROCTORED Available Fri, March 4th thru Fri, Mar 18th |
| Exam 3 | - - PROCTORED Available Mon, April 1st thru Mon, April 15th |
| Exam 4 | - - Available online via Blackboard Mon, April 18th thru Mon, April 25th |

Note the following information: To succeed in this course - students must be highly disciplined and motivated in the art of self-learning. This includes being able to efficiently read, absorb, and retain new information, as well as being fully capable of studying and understanding new concepts and technical ideas in a timely and independent manner. This also includes completing assignments, quizzes and examinations within course defined time restraints.

Disability Services
In compliance with PL94-142 and more recent federal legislation affirming the rights of disabled individuals, provisions will be made for students with special needs on an individual basis. The student must have been identified, as "special needs" by the university and an appropriate letter must be provided to the course instructor. Provisions will be made based upon written guidelines from the University’s Special Needs Students Resource Office. All students are expected to fulfill all course requirements.

Seeking Help

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The course textbook should be your first reference for questions on the course materials. The course Blackboard website, and cs334 website should be your first reference for questions about the class. The schedule will be updated and available before we meet for our first lecture on Friday, January 15th 2016. The schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor, and will be updated throughout the semester with links to lecture notes and assignments. Announcements and frequently asked questions (FAQ) will also be posted to the course Blackboard site.

The best way to get help on assignments and in understanding lectures is to read, and re-read the required textbook for the course. Especially because of the internet based nature of this course, you need to formulate and articulate intelligent questions ahead of time. You may need to wait for a response, so be sure to start reading and completing your homework assignments early.

You can also seek help during posted office hours. If you cannot make office hours, please send an email to setup an appointment. Online office hours (via adobe connect) will be announced on Blackboard. Unfortunately, I am not able to take “walk-in” questions outside of office hours. I am available via email, but do not expect, or rely on an immediate response.

Since this course will include several concrete deadlines, in terms of homework assignments and Exams, here’s a word of advice – start working on assignments early! An hour spent reading and understanding an assignment on the day it is given out will be worth many hours on the night before it is due. Patently working your way through the chapter, and then re-reading it to solidify your understanding will be more helpful than cramming multiple chapters into your brain for an exam on the last day.

General Course Information
A Driving Principle for us this semester, is provided as a quotation from my esteemed colleague Dr. Larry Wilson, who previously taught this course: “The one who does the work is the one who learns. I prefer for students to learn as much as possible hence they must work.” This course is Internet based, and demands a much more disciplined, mature, and motivated student than standard delivery lecture courses. The equivalent of six credit hours of material will be covered. No effort will be made to condense or abbreviate the material covered in CS170 and CS270. Be sure to budget twice as much time for this course as for a normal course. The time commitment required for a good student to be successful in this course will be in the range of 15-20 hours per week. If working full time this may be the only course you can handle. Be sure to budget twice as much time for this course as for a normal course.

The delivery mechanism of this course may be new for many students. It is heavily dependent on the ability, commitment and self-discipline of the student to learn independently. This is not a self-paced course. Strict deadlines apply to completion and submission of required course work.

The course is also dependent upon technology. You must be prepared to handle minor glitches without becoming overly upset. Every reasonable effort will be made to minimize the problems. A certain amount of overhead for adapting to this nonstandard delivery system is expected. Most of it will occur at the start of the course but equipment failure, software problems, power failure and human errors may cause temporary problems at any time during the semester. Be prepared to use your time wisely by reviewing old material and/or reading ahead if something prevents you from working on the preferred task. I will endeavor to post as much material ahead of time as possible. Fortunately for us, technical issues should not be of major concern. Blackboard will be used as the primary assignment delivery and submission mechanism (unless otherwise instructed), and the assignments and
firm due dates will be posted well in advance of those due dates. Students are encouraged to submit assignment solutions in advance of the due dates, in order to avoid technical issues and delays that may result in a loss of grade. Late submissions will not be graded.

We will meet to discuss the course, coordinate the current material and introduce new material, and complete proctored exams. You are required to come to your TTN site four times to take proctored exams. Meeting times and exams will be announced in advance. The meetings will be available for review.

Guidance and technical material will be made available for your access via the Internet. These will range from simple reading assignments to written material designed to supplement the text. Also in some cases we will add material to the text for more complete coverage.

Student Attributes: Students with the following attributes should be successful in this course.

- The ability to read.
- The ability to learn by reading.
- The discipline to set aside time for study.
- The ability to do mathematics well at the pre calculus level.

Those with the following attributes are advised to reconsider their options before taking this course.

- Needing detailed explanations of all new technical material.
- Not able to learn by reading on your own.
- Lacking the discipline and motivation for setting and maintaining your own schedule.
- Less than a B average in mathematics.

Modules: This course will be organized into five modules. The early modules contain review and basic material necessary to do the later modules. If you are not doing well at mid-term you are advised to withdraw with a ‘W’ grade at that time. After that date I will be willing to consider incomplete grades and/or late withdrawals only for exceptional circumstances and only for those who were doing well at mid-term. If your work is below a C level at mid-term then you continue at your own risk.

Suggested Study Habits: We will begin using the textbook chapters as our guide, in a linear fashion – so you can start by reading and studying Chapters 1, 2, and 3. Follow that by reading and studying Chapters 4, 5, and 6. I will post supplemental materials and links in addition. Use the schedule and appropriate module or component to keep a pace. It will be to your advantage to do them in the order suggested. For best results get ahead and stay ahead. Do all the work prior to the exam date and then just review from time to time to prepare for the exams. Read each module and follow the instructions there. Study the material in the modules themselves as well as the material from the text as you are responsible for everything. You should expect to read material multiple times in order to learn it. We all do that in order to learn new material. Read/study with pencil and paper in hand to work out the math problems and make notes for your later use. Somehow just writing down information helps it to stick in our heads. Particularly math examples are easier to follow if you do the work on your own paper rather than just trying to read and absorb it. You will save time and effort by doing this and the results will amaze you.

Do all the homework assigned not just the ones to be turned in for grading. It is probably faster to do them all in that like many texts the problems get progressively tougher as you move forward in the list, so the training you get

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on the easy ones will help you on the harder ones. Also you may see some of these problems on tests and if you have not previously had enough drill work then you may have problems with time. There is some drill built into these assignments if you are really good they will not take long and if you are not then the drill will make a big difference. I will collect and grade only a few selected problems to give you some feedback. You are expected to do them all. If you do them all and study until you understand all of them then you will learn a great deal of information from this course. If you decide not to study until you master the material then you can expect to have problems with test and with the subsequent material.

The problems marked with an * in the text have answers in the back. Work them out and then confirm your answer. Often the problems near these are very similar to those with the *s. Your immediate goal is to understand all of the assigned problems and their solutions prior to the tests.

An even more important long-term goal is to develop your ability to solve new problems quickly. If you find problems that are particularly tough after devoting a reasonable amount of time to them feel free to ask on our blackboard forum or by email. I will post example solutions to chapter problems to help you develop your own solutions, and also to review your own work. Do not waste my time and yours by asking questions about problems that you have not made a proper effort to solve, including reviewing the text and lectures to master example problems of a similar nature.

Keep up with the schedule. If you get behind there is not likely to be time to catch up. This will require multiple study periods per week. If you do this, then when a test is scheduled - all you will need to do is to review the material that you have already learned and then use your knowledge to earn your 'A'. In the few lectures we have scheduled, pay attention in class and use the tapes and video streamed archives to facilitate your understanding of the material. You are responsible for all material presented in class as well as all materials in the assigned readings and coursework.

**NOTE:** This syllabus and the approximate course schedule shown on the next page, are tentative and subject to change. Changes and Announcements will be made via email, and in class, and on our blackboard site.
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