THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

Applied Computer Science

Course Number: **ACS-2906-001, 070L, 071L**
Course Name: **Computer Architecture and System Software**
Course Webpage: **https://nexus.uwinnipeg.ca/d2l/home/39951**

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Christopher Henry
Class Room No: 3C01
Lab Room No: Zoom
Office Hours: Friday 12:30-1:30 pm
Office Hours Room No: 3C13

Email: ch.henry@uwinnipeg.ca
Class Meeting Time: Friday 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Lab Meeting Times:
070 Friday 4:00-5:15 pm
071 Tuesday 4:00 – 5:15 pm

Important Dates

First Class: September 10th, 2021
Midterm Test: October 8th, 2021 (9:30 am – 12:30 pm)
Winter Reading Week: October 10th – 16th, 2021 (**No classes**)
Withdrawal date w/o academic penalty[12]: November 16th, 2021
Last Scheduled Class: December 3rd, 2021
Final Examination (Comprehensive): TBD
The University is closed on the following dates (No Classes):
September 30th, 2021
October 11th, 2021
November 11th, 2021
December 24th, 2021 – January 5th, 2021

[1]A minimum of 20% of the work on which the final grade is based will be evaluated and available to the student before the voluntary withdrawal date.
[2]Please contact the instructor if you are considering a VW in case there is any help you may need.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

The course begins with discussions of the architecture of computer hardware and progresses to an examination of system software, including its relationship to the hardware, its structure and design, and its impact on application software, system developers, and end-users. Operating system concepts such as memory management, process management, and I/O subsystems will be covered. Students will also gain hands on experience in assembly programming language during laboratories and on assignments. Other topics include language processors, system utilities, security issues, performance management, program optimization, and GPU programming.

Evaluation Criteria

Assignments (16%)
There are 4 assignments, each worth 4% of your total grade. Submission instructions will be provided with each assignment. The late penalty is 15% per day (for a maximum of 3 days). Multiple submissions are not permitted. All submissions must be typed, and all source code must be commented and compile, or no credit will be given.

Think, Pair, Share (6%)
Students will be required to work together in a group of four to answer four questions for each of the units covering the topics *the Memory Hierarchy*, *Exceptional Control Flow*, and *Virtual Memory*. Each student will take responsibility for answering one of the four questions. The exercise for each topic will be worth 2% of the final grade. Of this 2%, 1% is assessed based on correct answers to the question. The other 1% is an assessment by the other members of the group based on the quality of each student's answer.

Laboratories (10%)
There will be 10 laboratories: each consisting of 1% of your final grade. Laboratories will be emailed to students on the morning of the scheduled section. Submission instructions will be given with each assignment. Multiple submissions are not permitted. All work submitted for evaluation must be typed, and all source code must be commented and compile, or no credit will be given. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Midterm Examination (18%)
There will be **one** midterm test.

Final Examination (50%)
The final examination is comprehensive.

Note: a permitted or necessary change in mode of delivery may require adjustments to important aspects of course outlines, like class schedule and the number, nature, and weighting of assignments and/or exams.

Students can find answers to frequently asked questions related to remote learning here: https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/covid-19/remote-learning-faq.html.

Exam Requirements
- Photo ID is required
- You are expected to write the test/exam on the specified date.
- Unless a medical certificate is provided, no accommodation is made for missed deadlines or examinations
- No equipment (*e.g.* cell/smart phone, laptop, calculators, dictionaries, handheld devices, etc.) is authorized for use in tests/exams.
- Midterm and final examinations are closed-book.

Student Services and Information

Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams or during lectures/laboratories are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204.786.9771 or https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility-services/ to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential.

All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn, and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found at https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect/.

Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holy days of their religion, but they must notify their instructors at least two weeks in advance. Instructors will then provide opportunity for students to make up work or examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found in the 2020-21 Undergraduate Academic Calendar.

Final Letter Grade Assignment

Historically, numerical percentages have been converted to letter grades using the following scale. However, instructors can deviate from these values based on pedagogical nuances of a particular class, and final grades are subject to approval by the Department Review Committee.

A+	90+ - 100%	B	70 - 74%	F	below 50%
A	85 - 90%	C+	65 - 69%		
A-	80 - 84%	C	60 - 64%		
B+	75 - 79%	D	50 - 59%		

Required Textbooks

Main texts:

- Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective; 3rd Edition; Randel E. Bryant, David R. O'Hallaron; Prentice Hall 2010, ISBN: 978-0134092669.

Besides the information contained in the main texts and course notes, I may also distribute papers, and discuss appropriate material and examples from other sources. For example, the assembly language component of the course is taught from supplementary material. Students are responsible for all material covered in the class.

Prerequisite Information (This information can be found in the UW General Calendar)

Requisite courses: ACS-1904 or ACS-1905 with a minimum grade of C.
ACS-2906L (lab) must be taken concurrently.

Regulations, Policies, and Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty is a very serious offense and will be dealt in accordance with the University's policies.

Avoiding Academic Misconduct and Non-academic Misconduct. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the "Academic Regulations and Policies" found in the University *Academic Calendar* at:
https://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf

Particular attention should be given to subsections 8 ("Student Discipline"), 9 ("Senate Appeals") and 10 ("Grade Appeals"). Please note, in particular, the subsection of Student Discipline pertaining to plagiarism and other forms of cheating.

Please note the importance of maintaining academic integrity, and to the potential consequences of engaging in plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic misconduct. Even "unintentional" plagiarism, as described in the UW Library video tutorial "Avoiding Plagiarism" (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvFdxRU9a8g) is a form of academic misconduct.

Detailed information can be found at the following:

- Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures: https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-policy.pdf and https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf
- Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures: https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf and https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/student-non-academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf

Misuse of Filesharing Sites. Uploading essays and other assignments to essay vendor or trader sites (filesharing sites that are known providers of essays for use by others who submit them to instructors as their own work) involves "aiding and abetting" plagiarism. Students who do this can be charged with Academic Misconduct.

Non-academic misconduct. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful manner on campus and in the learning environment irrespective of platform being used. Behaviour, communication, or acts that are inconsistent with a number of UW policies could be considered "non-academic" misconduct.

More detailed information can be found here:

- Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect/respect-policy.html
- Acceptable Use of Information Technology Policy https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/acceptable-use-of-information-technology-policy.pdf
- Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/student-non-academic-

misconduct-policy.pdf and https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/student-non-academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf.

Copyright and Intellectual Property. Course materials are the property of the instructor who developed them. Examples of such materials are course outlines, assignment descriptions, lecture notes, test questions, and presentation slides—irrespective of format. Students who upload these materials to filesharing sites, or in any other way share these materials with others outside the class without prior permission of the instructor/presenter, are in violation of copyright law and University policy. Students must also seek prior permission of the instructor/presenter before, for example, photographing, recording, or taking screenshots of slides, presentations, lectures, and notes on the board. Students found to be in violation of an instructor's intellectual property rights could face serious consequences pursuant to the Academic Misconduct or Non-Academic Misconduct Policy; such consequences could possibly involve legal sanction under the Copyright Policy https://copyright.uwinnipeg.ca/docs/copyright_policy_2017.pdf

Privacy

Students have rights in relation of the collecting of personal data the University of Winnipeg: https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/admissions-privacy-notice.html

More information:

- Zoom and Privacy: https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/zoom-privacy-notice.html
- Testing/Proctoring: https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/zoom-test-and-exam-proctoring.html

Class Cancellation, Correspondence with Students and Withdrawing from Course

When it is necessary to cancel a class due to exceptional circumstances, every effort will be made to inform students via UWinnipeg email (and/or using the preferred form of communication, as designated in this outline).

Students have the responsibility to regularly check their UWinnipeg e-mail addresses to ensure timely receipt of correspondence from the University and/or their course instructors.

Please let course instructor know if you plan on withdrawing from the course. Note that withdrawing before the VW date does not necessarily result in a fee refund.

Course Topics

- Representing and Manipulating Info
- Integer Arithmetic
- Floating Point Arithmetic
- Assembly Language programming
- Memory Hierarchy
- Virtual Memory
- GPUs

Note: not all the above topics may be covered.

Course Readings

Relevant textbook chapters and sections will be given during lectures.

Recommended Study Habits

Students who do well in this class attend lectures, take notes, submit all deliverables, regularly ask questions, and tend to spend an extra 3-5 hours per week doing the following:
- Read course notes and handouts
- Read the textbook before coming to class
- Attempt the problems and exercises at the end of the chapters
- Form study groups to study for the midterm and exam

Advice: Students who fall behind find it very hard to catch up.