CS 2504

Course Administration

Computer Science 2504
Intro Computer Organization

Instructor and TAs

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Prerequisites

CS 2204  UNIX
CS 2605  Data Structures and OO Development I

CS Majors and Minors must have completed the prerequisite with a grade of C or higher
(C- is not acceptable).

Note  Lying about whether you meet the prerequisites is an Honor Code offense. Students who
do so may be charged at the sole discretion of the Department of Computer Science.

Text and Recommended References

Required:

Computer Organization and Design, 3rd Edition
David A Patterson & John L Hennessey
Elsevier ©2005
ISBN 1-55860-604-1

Recommended:

CS 2504 Course Notes, Fall 2006 Edition
W D McQuain, ©2006
(available ONLY at the course website)

courses.cs.vt.edu/~cs2504

Additional resources on the CD accompanying the P&H text.
Documentation linked from the course website.
Evaluation

Final grades will be based on the average achieved over the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Tentative Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>See website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Frequent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam*</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>13:05 – 15:05 Friday Dec 8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grade Scale

The usual 10-point scale will apply (subject to any curve). A final average of 90% will guarantee an A-, 80% will guarantee a B-, and so forth.

Curve

A grade curve may or may not be employed in this course. The application of a curve is dependent upon class performance on tests, projects and homework. The decision to utilize a curve rests entirely with the course instructors.

* Exam score will replace the midterm score, if it is higher.

Development System

Test Environments

- When relevant, a test environment, such as SPIM or LogiSIM will be specified for homework assignments.
- Solutions will only be tested under the specified environment.
- It is the YOUR responsibility to ensure that YOUR solutions execute correctly in the appropriate environment; solutions that do not will receive substantial deductions.
## Late Work

### Due dates
Each programming project and homework assignment will have a due date and time and will include instructions for submission.

### Homework
Usually, no late submissions will be allowed for homework assignments.

### Projects
Except in the very rare case that an extension is granted, late submissions will incur a penalty per diem late penalty that will be included in the project specification. This is typically 10%.

### Extensions
Any request for an extension must be made, preferably by email, at least 24 hours prior to the due date.
Late submissions will not be given any credit if submitted after graded assignments or solutions have been released.

### Statute of Limitations
Any questions about the grading of an assignment must be raised with your instructor within two weeks after the graded assignment has been made available to you.

## Sources of Help for This Course

### General Issues
- CS 2504 classmates
- CS 2504 Forum online at forum.cs.vt.edu
- CS 2504 TAs
- CS 2504 Instructor

### Assembly Language Help
- P&H text
- CS 2504 Forum

### Lecture Instruction
Lectures will consist of presentations, applications, problems and solutions interspersed with classroom discussion.
**Damage Control**

**Backups**

Students are responsible for making backup copies of all their work in this (and all) courses.

Loss of work due to hard drive failure is **NOT** an acceptable excuse. Backup copies of files on the same hard drive are not backup copies. Backup copies of files on second hard drives are also risky. Backup copies should be maintained on two separate distinct storage mediums, (e.g., hard drives and Zip disks).

Backup copies should be maintained until after the end of the term and students have received their course grade. (The Army lives by triplicate for a reason.)

Remember: Computer systems are mechanical devices.


Network connections break.

Plan for it. It is inevitable!

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**Honor Code**

An exhaustive list of Honor Code violations would be impossible to present here, but among other things, each of the following is a flagrant violation of the Virginia Tech Honor Code, and violations will be dealt with severely (Honor Court):

- Working with another student to derive a common program or solution to a problem. **There are no group projects in this course.**
- Discussing the details required to solve an assignment. You may not share solutions, or collaborate in the creation of a solution.
- Copying source code (programs) in whole or in part from someone else.
- Copying files from another student's disk or lab account even though they might be unprotected.
- Editing (computer generated) output to achieve apparently correct results.

It is acceptable to discuss an assignment with classmates in a **general** way, i.e., to discuss the **nature** of the assignment. In other words, you may discuss with your classmates what your solution is required to accomplish but **not how to achieve that goal using SPIM assembly, or other relevant tools.** In no way should the individual statements of a program or the steps leading to the solution of the problem be discussed with or shown to anyone except those people cited in the following statement.
Feel free to discuss the homework assignments and your program source code with the teaching assistants assigned to CS 2504, the instructor, or the free tutors provided by UPE. The discussion of your program source code must be limited to these people. Note that this specifically excludes discussions of your program source code with other students (even if they are not enrolled in CS 2504), or with tutors except for those named above. Privately hired tutors are not an exception to this requirement, nor are athletic or other tutors provided by the University.

Copies of all submitted work are retained indefinitely by the Department. Submitted programs are subjected to automated analysis for detection of cheating.

If you have any question as to how the Honor Code applies to this class, remember that:

- Any work done in this class must be done on an individual basis.
- Credit will be given only for work done entirely on an individual basis.
- Do not make any assumptions as to who can provide help on a programming assignment.
- All submitted work is archived. All submitted programs will be subjected to automated cheat analysis.

Evidence indicating the violation of the policies stated above will be submitted to the Honor Court.

It is much easier to explain a poor grade to parents or a potential employer than to explain an Honor Court conviction.