

CS 3204 Course Policies*
Operating Systems
Fall 2005
Capra section

Section: CRN 91525 MWF 10:10am – 11:00am McBryde 321

Instructor: **Robert Capra**
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Office Hours: MWF 11:10am – 12:30pm
and by appointment
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Textbook (required): *Operating Systems: Internals and Design Principles, 5th edition*
William Stallings, Prentice Hall, ©2005.
ISBN: 0-13-147954-7

Course Webpage: <http://courses.cs.vt.edu/~cs3204/fall2005/capra/>

Grade Weighting:

Item	Weight	Date(s)
Programming Projects	45%	Will be posted on course web site
Homework	10%	Will be posted on course web site
In-class quizzes	5%	Various
Midterm tests	10% 10%	In-class, Friday, September 23 and In-class, Friday, October 28
Final exam	20%	1:05pm – 3:05pm, Friday, Dec 9

* This document contains 7 numbered sections on 6 pages.

1. Prerequisites

The following are the prerequisites for CS 3204:

- **CS2604**
CS Majors and Minors must have completed this prerequisite with a grade of C or higher (C- is not acceptable). CpE Majors must have completed this prerequisite with a grade of C- or higher.
- **ECE2504**
CS and CpE Majors must have completed this prerequisite with a grade of C- or higher.
- **Note:** Students are expected to have prior proficiency in the C++ programming language, including the design and implementation of object-oriented systems. Students are responsible for having a working knowledge of Unix/Linux.

Any student not meeting these requirements (both prerequisites and grades) and not obtaining written permission from the CS department must withdraw from the course within the first week of classes. Any student who is subsequently found not to meet these requirements **will be subject to an honors violation report** on the basis of falsification of qualifications. Neither instructors nor anyone else in the CS department are bound to investigate the records of students to ascertain their prerequisite status; this is the student's own responsibility. **There will be absolutely NO exceptions to these requirements.**

2. Graded Work

Your course grade will be based on programming projects, two midterm exams, a final exam, homework assignments, and in-class quizzes, weighted as shown on the table listed under "Grade Weighting" on the first page of this document.

Programming Projects

There will be 3 to 5 programming projects throughout the semester. The projects will be announced and project specifications posted on the course website. All programming assignments submitted are required to be developed and run compile using Gnu GCC and Linux, as installed on the computers in the McBryde 124 computing lab. For most of the programming projects, you may use either the C or C++ compiler in GCC. As of the writing of this document, the McBryde 124 lab was scheduled to run Fedora Core 4 with GCC 4.0 for the Fall 2005 semester. However, you should check once the lab has opened to verify what environment is in use. The requirement of Gnu GCC and Linux is absolute for all programming assignments. Programs will only be tested under the GCC/Linux environment installed on the computers in the McBryde 124 lab. If your program fails to compile and/or run in the specified environment, or exhibits incorrect behavior, substantial deductions, up to and including a grade of zero may be applied.

It is the student's responsibility to ensure that his/her programs execute correctly in the appropriate environment. Computing facilities are available for use in the Departmental Computing Lab in McBryde 124. The instructor and GTAs will answer questions and provide help **ONLY** for programs that are developed in Gnu GCC and Linux. **NO HELP** will be provided regarding other environments. Any problems related to porting code from Visual C++ or Cygwin to GCC/Linux will **not** be considered grounds for any extensions, nor for leniency in grading.

All the programming projects will be submitted electronically, using the Curator system. See the Curator Project Page (<http://www.cs.vt.edu/curator/>) for details. Be sure to download and read the Student Guide to the Curator — it contains the answers to most of the questions students have about the Curator System. The Student Guide also contains information about how the Honor Code applies when using the Curator; be sure to read and follow the guidelines given there.

Homework

There will be a number of homework assignments throughout the semester. Homework assignments will be submitted electronically using the Curator system (see notes about the Curator above). Homework assignments submissions must be typeset using a word processor (e.g. Word), LaTeX, Tex, or a text processor resulting in neatly formatted ASCII text. No handwritten work (including scanned documents) will be accepted.

Quizzes

There will be a number of in-class quizzes throughout the term. Quizzes will generally be short and based upon class discussions and/or assigned readings. Each student's **two** lowest quiz scores will be dropped. Missed quizzes may **not** be made up.

Tests

There will be two mid-term exams in-class on the following dates:

- Friday, September 23, 2005
- Friday, October 28, 2005

The final exam is scheduled for 1:05pm – 3:05pm, Friday, Dec 9, 2005.

3. Grading Policies

This course involves a considerable amount of programming, and programming projects account for 45% of your grade. You are expected to produce programs that are both readable and correct. The Computer Science Departmental Documentation Standards entitled, “Elements of Programming Style”, will be enforced. A link to these standards is available on the course web site.

One purpose of an operating systems course is to teach the functions, concepts, and algorithms that are important to operating systems. Another purpose of this course is to exercise your design abilities. It is not sufficient that a program generates the correct answer and be written with good documentation style. Projects will also be graded in part on quality of design and organization and in part on efficiency. You should certainly pay attention when the instructor discusses issues related to “good” and “poor” design choices for the projects and aspects of efficiency. These issues directly affect your grade.

All programming projects will be graded for adherence to good software engineering principles, including documentation, design, conformance to the stated specification, and programming style.

Each project specification will include or refer to explicit guidelines that you will be expected to follow. In particular, you will always be expected to follow the guidelines on the Programming Standards page of the course website.

Grades

The following grade scale will be used AS A GUIDELINE (subject to any curve):

Percentage	Minimum Grade
90%	A-
80%	B-
70%	C-
60%	D-
Below 60%	F

This scale will be used as a GUIDELINE ONLY. The final grade scale may differ. After each mid-term exam, mid-term grades (numeric) will be posted. 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 instructor(s).

Backups

It is your responsibility to maintain up-to-date backup copies of each programming project (that is in addition to the copy you submit). The hard drives of the lab machines are re-cloned (i.e. erased and the operating system re-installed) periodically, so don't count on leaving a backup there! It is recommended that you keep a copy of all the relevant files for each project on at least two different types of storage media (e.g. floppy disks, CD-ROM, Flash memory card, VT Filebox) in case your original assignment is mislaid or the files are corrupted. Loss of work due to failure of a storage device (e.g. hard drive) is not grounds for an extension on an assignment.

Due Dates and Late Work

Each programming project and homework assignment will have a due date and time and will include instructions for submission. Late submissions will not be given any credit if submitted after graded assignments or solutions have been released.

Homework assignments are due at the date and time specified in the homework assignment. No late homework assignments will be accepted unless an extension has been granted by the instructor in an email to the student.

Programming projects are due at the date and time specified in the project specification. Programming projects will have three associated due dates: on-time, early, and final. Programs submitted by the early due date will receive a 10% bonus. Programs submitted after the early date, but by the on-time due date will be graded with no bonus or penalty. Programs submitted after the on-time date but by the final due date will receive a 20% penalty. Submissions that are a few minutes after a deadline will receive a penalty of 1% per minute after the deadline until reaching the credit level for the next due date. Example 1: A program submitted 3 minutes after the early deadline would still receive a 7% bonus. Example 2: A program submitted 11 minutes after the early deadline would receive no bonus or penalty and would be considered "on-time". Example 3: A program submitted 5 minutes after the on-time deadline would receive a 5% penalty. Example 4: A program submitted 21 minutes after the on-time deadline would receive a 20% penalty. Programs will NOT be accepted after the final due date – any submissions made after the final due date will receive a score of 0 except in the rare case that an extension is granted.

Plan your time carefully for the programming projects, especially if you will be using computers in the campus labs — you may be competing with other students for computing resources, so don't put things off until the last minute. Note: delays resulting from machine availability, lab schedules, hardware failures or your failure to maintain a backup of your work do not merit an extension.

Quizzes will not be accepted late.

Requests for Extensions

Any request for an extension must be made, preferably by email, at least 24 hours prior to the due date. Written documentation is required for illness.

Statute of Limitations

Any questions or complaints regarding the grading of an assignment or test must be raised within one week after the score or graded assignment is made available (not when you pick it up).

Absences

If a serious illness prevents you from taking any of the tests, send your instructor an e-mail message, or a friend with a note, describing your condition before the scheduled test. Also, to establish a valid excuse for an illness you must get a note from a physician or the University infirmary. Before missing a test for any reason, you must make every effort to discuss the problem with your instructor before the day of the test. Excuses other than an illness must be reported to your Dean's office so that they can send your instructor a

written explanation of the absence. If you need to be away for an official University event, this must be cleared with your instructor in advance. Without a valid excuse, no makeup tests or exam will be given.

4. Getting Help

You may get help from the following sources:

- CS 3204 classmates (see the Important Note below)
- CS 3204 Forum online at forum.cs.vt.edu
- CS 3204 TAs
- CS 3204 Instructors
- Textbooks and C++ language books

Important Note: It is acceptable to discuss with classmates a programming assignment in a general way, i.e., to discuss the nature of the assignment. In other words, you may discuss with your classmates what your program is required to accomplish but not how to achieve that goal using C/C++. 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 the teaching assistants assigned to CS 3204, the instructor(s), or the free tutors provided by the CS ACM/UPE groups. The discussion of your program source code must be limited to these people.

5. Course Communication (Website, Discussion Forum, Blackboard)

Course Website

The official course website for this section of CS 3204 is at:

<http://courses.cs.vt.edu/~cs3204/fall2005/capra/>

It is the responsibility of every student to **check the website daily** for announcements.

The Announcements section of the website will be the source for all **official announcements** related to the class. The Announcements section of the website is the **only** official, reliable source for announcements, changes, etc. from the instructor. If something the instructor says in class conflicts with information posted by the instructor on the website, then the information posted on by the instructor **on the website takes precedence**. Verbal instructions are easily mis-interpreted, and they do not leave a documentation trail. The excuse “my instructor/GTA said something else” will not be accepted.

Discussion Forum

In addition to the course website, a CS department class discussion forum for CS 3204 will be set up at:

<https://forum.cs.vt.edu/>

This forum should be available by the end of the first week of classes. When reading posts to the forum, be sure that you are reading posts for your section of CS3204 (other sections may also have forums). There may be different information or instructions posted for different sections.

VT Blackboard System

Course grades for this section of CS 3204 will be posted to the Blackboard system available at:

<http://learn.vt.edu>

Students may log in to the Blackboard system using their VT PID and password. Once logged in, there should be a link for CS 3204 on the Blackboard web page. For this section of CS 3204, the Blackboard

system will be used primarily for posting grades – it is unlikely that other course material or information will be posted there.

6. 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 charges will be filed):

- Working with another student to derive a common program or solution to a problem. There are no group programming projects in this course.
- Discussing the details required to solve a programming assignment.
- Copying source code (programs) in whole or in part from someone else.
- Copying files from another student's disk even though they might be unprotected.
- Editing (computer generated) output to achieve apparently correct results.
- Taking another person's printout from a lab printer, remote printer, trash can, etc.

As stated in the “Getting Help” section of this document, it is acceptable to discuss with classmates a programming assignment in a general way, i.e., to discuss with your classmates what your program is required to accomplish, but not how to achieve that goal using C/C++.

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.
- Always give credit for work that is not entirely your own (e.g., parts of programs or homework answers found in a book).
- Evidence indicating the violation of the policy stated above will be turned in 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.

In addition, the Honor Code statement included in the Student Guide to the Curator is in force for this class.

The Honor Code will be strictly enforced in this course. All assignments submitted shall be considered pledged graded work, unless otherwise noted. All aspects of your work will be covered by the Honor System. Honesty in your academic work will develop into professional integrity. The faculty and students of Virginia Tech will not tolerate any form of academic dishonesty.

7. Special Accommodations

If any student needs special accommodations, please contact the instructor during the first week of classes.

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Statement of Receipt and Understanding

By signing below I certify that:

- I have received a complete copy (7 sections on 6 pages total) of the course policies for CS 3204 in the document titled, "CS 3204 Course Policies, Operating Systems, Fall 2005, Capra MWF Section".
- I have read and understand the above referenced Course Policies and have had a chance to have any questions I have about the policies answered by the instructor.
- I also understand that the above referenced Course Policies are in effect for my section of CS3204.

Signature _____

Date _____

Printed Name _____

Student ID Number _____