Course Information for cs341–Operating Systems

cs341
Spring 2002

Allen B. Downey
Computer Science Department

- Professor: Allen B. Downey, adowney@wellesley.edu, Science Center E106, x3318.
- Class time: Monday and Thursday 1:30–2:40pm, SCI E111.
- Textbooks: Nutt, *Operating Systems*, Second Edition, Lab Update, Addison-Wesley.
  Oualline, *Practical C Programming*, O'Reilly.
- Class-related email: I don't use a Macintosh or any Microsoft products, so please don't send me attached documents in formats other than plain text. I also hate FirstClass and minimize my use of it. You might want to read

  `http://rocky.wellesley.edu/downey/firstclass.html`

- Web page: The handouts that I produce (as opposed to the ones I photocopy from other sources) will be available from the class web page. The URL is

  `http://rocky.wellesley.edu/cs341`

1 Coursework

Work in this class will include readings from the textbook and from additional sources I provide, a roughly-weekly series of written lab reports, a series of written exercises, quizzes, two in-class exams, a final exam, and in-class activities.

The total course load is intended to be 11 hours per week (including class time); the load should be spread evenly across the semester.

Grading: Final grades are determined by exams (45%), homeworks (40%), and quizzes (10%). For more information on grading, see

`http://rocky.wellesley.edu/grading.html`

Exams: The exams are scheduled for Thursday 28 February and Monday 8 April. There will be no makeup exams for any reason. If you miss one exam for an extremely legitimate reason, your final grade will be based on the other two exams. If you miss an exam without a legitimate reason, you will receive a zero. If you miss two exams for any reason, you cannot pass the class.

Quizzes: There will be a number of in-class quizzes during the semester, usually for 10-20 minutes at the beginning of a class session. There will be no makeup quizzes for any reason, but at the end of the semester I will drop each student's lowest quiz score.

Assignments: There will be two kinds of homework assignments: written exercises and lab reports. Written exercises must be done individually. Lab reports will be done in groups that I will assign.

In each case, I will make it clear what kinds of collaboration are acceptable. In all cases, it is unacceptable to present someone else's work as if it were your own. Unless stated otherwise, I will assume that all work you hand in is yours and yours alone. If you work with another student, you must acknowledge that student's contribution in writing on your assignment. If you get help from me that constitutes a significant part of the assignment, you should acknowledge that, too. If you are not sure, err on the side of caution.

2 Approximate calendar of topics

We will be following the order of presentation in the book for the most part, covering about one chapter per week.

Topic 1: Intro to operating systems and UNIX
Topic 2: The OS from the programmer's point-of-view
Topic 3: Review of computer organization
Topic 4: Processes management
Topic 5: Scheduling
Topic 6: Process Synchronization
Topic 7: Deadlock (maybe)
Topic 8: Memory Management
Topic 9: Virtual Memory
Topic 10: File Management
Topic 11: To be determined!