CSE 325 - Computer Systems

General Information - Spring 2022

URL: http://www.cse.msu.edu/~mckinley/325/SS22

Lectures: MW 10:20-11:40am

Room: C107 McDonel Hall (first 3 weeks via Zoom)

Exams (in-person, barring a change in circumstances)

Instructor:  Dr. Philip McKinley
Email:  mckinley@cse.msu.edu
Office:  1133 Engineering Building
Off. Hrs (via Zoom):  MW after class and by appointment.

TAs and office hours:
NOTE. TA office hours are currently held via zoom at the links below. Passcodes will be sent to the class via email.
Nick (polanco3@msu.edu), Mondays, 8:00-10:00am, Zoom link
Guangjing (wanggu22@msu.edu), Tuesdays, 10:00am-noon, Zoom link
Sanjeev (thenkara@msu.edu), Wednesdays, 2:45-4:45pm, Zoom link
Robert (jamesro4@msu.edu), Thursdays, 3:00-5:00pm, Zoom link

Required materials: CSE 325 Course Notes (materials presented in class). Course notes for the first lecture of the term will NOT be available until after that class period. Subsequently, all course notes will be posted here prior to the corresponding lecture.

This course does not have a required textbook. Optional reference texts are:

Course Topics In CSE 325, students will develop an understanding of the design and operation of general-purpose computer systems. Major topics include computer system architecture and interconnections, interrupt-driven execution, operation of cache memory, processes and threads, virtual memory and paging, file systems, concurrency control, and introduction to packet switching and the TCP/IP protocol suite. As time permits, we will discuss virtual machines and computer system security topics.

Grading Policy (tentative):

Homework and Programming Assignments  34%
Exam I  22%
Exam II  22%
Exam III  22%

NOTE 1: Homework assignments and programming assignments must be submitted via the CSE Handin facility.
NOTE 2: Assignments submitted after the posted deadline will not be graded.
NOTE 3: Assignments submitted by email will not be graded.
The following grading scale is will be used for the course. Given a percentage X of possible points:
90 ≤ X is a 4.0,
85 ≤ X < 90 is a 3.5,
80 ≤ X < 85 is a 3.0,
75 ≤ X < 80 is a 2.5,
70 ≤ X < 75 is a 2.0,
65 ≤ X < 70 is a 1.5,
60 ≤ X < 65 is a 1.0,
X < 60 is a 0.0.

Depending on class performance, it is possible the grade cutoffs will be adjusted lower than these thresholds. They will not be higher.

Exam Procedures:
Exams will be held in person in room C107 McDonel Hall (unless the course remains online through an exam date). MSU COVID Directives will be strictly enforced. Any student who violates these directives (e.g., refuses to wear a mask) or who disrupts the exam in any way will be dismissed and will receive a score of 0 for the exam, with the case referred to the University for further disciplinary action.

Make-ups:
There are no make-up exams. Exam dates are announced at the beginning of the semester. Students must schedule other activities so as to avoid conflicts with exams.

Extra Credit:
There may be opportunities to earn extra credit in the course. Extra credit is applied in a specific category (e.g., assignments), but only after grade thresholds have been determined. Hence, extra credit can have only a positive effect on a student's grade. Note: Regardless of the total number of extra points earned by a student, the maximum positive effect of those points on a student's grade is capped at 5 percent of the total course points available (excluding extra credit points).

Class Procedures:

1. All students are expected to be responsible users of University/College/Department computer systems. Account usage guidelines published by the Department of Computer Science and Engineering are available here.
2. The Department of Computer Science and Engineering expects all students to adhere to MSU Policies, Regulations and Ordinances Regarding Academic Honesty and Integrity, which includes a requirement for "completion of original academic work by the student to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind." Additional information on academic integrity can be found here. In particular, all materials submitted for grading (homework, exams) must be your own work. Failure to follow this rule is grounds for receiving a grade of 0.0 for the course and disciplinary action by the University. Missing an exam is grounds for receiving a grade of 0.0 for the course.
3. All course materials, including videos, overheads, assignments, exams and all other provided items, are to be used by students currently enrolled in the course and not to be otherwise shared/distributed.