CMSC 412 (Fall 2011)

Class URL: http://www.cs.umd.edu/class/fall2011/cmsc412
You are expected to check the class web page on a regular basis (at least twice a week).

Catalog Description:
A hands-on introduction to operating systems, including topics in: multiprogramming, communication and synchronization, memory management, IO subsystems, and resource scheduling polices. The laboratory component consists of constructing a small kernel, including functions for device IO, multi-tasking, and memory management.

Objective:
An in-depth understanding of how an operating system manages resources in a computer and provides programmers with a machine and device independent interface. The emphasis of this class will be on operating system concepts. Running examples will be drawn from contemporary OS’s including UNIX, Windows, and Linux.

Prerequisites: CMSC 216, CMSC 330

Topics Covered (in approximately the order we will cover them):
- Introduction to Operating Systems (1 week)
- Concurrent Processes (2 weeks)
- Kernel implementation techniques (1 week)
- CPU scheduling (1 week)
- Memory Management (2 weeks)
- File and I/O Systems (2 weeks)
- Security and Protection (1 week)
- Networking and Distributed Systems (2 weeks)
- Objects and Naming (1 week)
- Window and Display Services (1 week)

Required Course Text:

Programming Projects:
Understanding operating system concepts is a hands-on activity. This class will include several substantial programming projects that will require students to read and understand provided code, write new modules, and debug the resulting system. The programming assignments will be time consuming and students taking this class should plan their class schedules accordingly.

The instructor reserves the right to fail, regardless of overall numeric score, students who do not submit a good faith attempt to complete all programming assignments.
Grading:

Final Exam 30%
Midterms (2 each worth 15%) 30%
Programming Assignments 40%

Exams:

Midterm #1 (10/13/11 in class)
Midterm #2 (11/17/11 in class)
Final (Friday, Dec 16 8:00am-10:00am)

Schedule Conflicts: If you have a schedule conflict with any exam, please contact your instructor by the end of the schedule adjustment period (9/14/11).

DSS: If you require any special accommodations, you must provide paperwork from DSS by the end of schedule adjustment period (9/14/11).

Re-grade policy. All requests to change grading of homework, programming projects, or exams must be submitted in writing (typed) within one week of when the assignment was made available for pickup. Requests must be specific and explain why you feel your answer deserves additional credit. A request to re-grade an assignment can result in the entire assignment being re-evaluated and as a result the score of any part of the assignment may be increased or lowered as appropriate.

Cell phones: As a courtesy to your fellow classmates, mobile phones must be off or on vibrate during class. Having phones ring during class can result in points being deducted from your semester grade.

Academic Integrity:

All work that you submit in this course must be your own; unauthorized group efforts will be considered academic dishonesty. See the Undergraduate Catalog for definitions and sanctions. Academic dishonesty is a serious offense that may result in suspension or expulsion from the University. In addition to any other action taken, the grade “XF” denoting “failure due to academic dishonesty” will normally be recorded on the transcripts of students found responsible for acts of academic dishonesty. Sharing of any code on programming assignments is a form of academic dishonesty.

Late Policy:

No late homework or programming assignments will be accepted. If you are unable to complete a programming assignment due to illness or family emergency, please see Dr. Hollingsworth as soon as possible to make special arrangements.

Office Hours and Email:

We (the TAs and professors) are happy to answer questions during office hours, and by email. However, office hours and email are not intended as a replacement for lecture. As a result, we will only see people during office hours or respond to your email if you regularly attend class. Due to our own work schedules, we may not respond to email instantly. However, we will try to respond to your email by the next regularly scheduled office hour after you send it.