COSC 6360—OPERATING SYSTEMS

Instructor: Jehan-François Pâris
E-mail Addresses: jfparis AT uh DOT edu
Office Hours: MW 4:00–5:00 in PGH 569
Phone: 713-743-3341 (no voicemail)
Class Schedule: MW 5:30–7:00 p.m. in CBB 118
“Old” Course Page: http://www2.cs.uh.edu/~paris/6360/resources.htm (Note the www2)
Class Recordings: ???
Teaching Assistant Christos Smailis
csmailis AT uh DOT edu and smailisch ATgmail DOT com
TuTh 4:00-6:00 in HBS1 room 328
(near Campus Recreation and Wellness Center)

OVERVIEW
COSC 6360 covers current topics in operating systems research and Linux/FreeBSD system programming. It assumes a strong familiarity with basic operating system topics such as scheduling, memory management, concurrent processes and so forth. As in many advanced courses, a reading list of papers will be provided. Accessing these papers from any computer outside the UH domain will require a login (“cosc6360”) and a password to be given in class.

Students are expected to attend all lectures.

MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS/EXAMINATIONS
There will be five quizzes on the readings, worth 65 percent of the semester average, and three to four programming assignments worth the remaining 35 percent. The last quiz will take place at the time and date of the final. All quizzes will be closed book. You will be allowed one 11 by 8.5" single-sided page of notes for each quiz.

All programming assignments will be Linux/FreeBSD system programming assignments. Most of them will be in C/C++. Late assignments will be assessed a penalty of 5 points per day unless announced otherwise. You will be given a total of three grace days to be used at your discretion.

Please let me know as soon as possible of any special circumstances that could affect your class performance, such as conference travel, health emergencies, family emergencies, and so on,

No cheating or plagiarism will be tolerated in any graded assignment: the code that you turn in must either be written by you or have its source clearly identified. The minimum penalty for any transgression will be an F grade for the course. You have been warned!

READINGS
The course reading list covers papers from various areas of the OS realm including Unix/Linux, OS kernels, distributed systems fundamentals, security, peer to peer systems, file systems, distributed file systems, virtual machines, and atomic transactions.

We may add to the list one or two papers from the 27th ACM Symposium on Operating Systems Principles, which will take place in late October.
HANDS-ON LINUX EXPERIENCE

The best way to learn a computing environment is to experiment with it and to try to use it to solve real problems. For this reason, you will all have to install some version of UNIX on your personal computer. In order of increasing sophistication, your options are:

1. Installing Bash for Ubuntu for Windows on your PC or learning to use your Mac shell.
2. Installing Cygwin (but only if your PC does not run the 64-bit version of Windows).
3. Finding a way to boot Linux/FreeBSD from your hard drive or from a flash drive.
4. Installing a Linux/FreeBSD virtual machine on your PC or your Mac.

KEY DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Quiz</td>
<td>Monday, September 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Program Due</td>
<td>Wednesday, October 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Quiz</td>
<td>Monday, September 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Program Due</td>
<td>End of October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No lectures</td>
<td>Monday, October 21 and Wednesday, October 23 (MASCOTS 2019)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Quiz</td>
<td>Monday, October 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Program Due</td>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth Quiz</td>
<td>Monday, November 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifth Quiz</td>
<td>Wednesday, December 11 at 5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OTHER POLICY ISSUES

1. We will have to reschedule the two lectures of October 21 and 23, which I will be unable to tech due to professional travel.
2. Please contact me if you have any special need. We will work together around them.
3. Please verify that the university has your correct email address: I will use it whenever I have to get in touch with you for things like missing assignments and so on.
4. Please refer to the Piazza course page for course notes, quiz solutions, review session questions and answers, and other announcements.
5. Please leave your laptop, tablet or smartphone in your bag unless you use it exclusively for following a demo or taking notes.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to the demands of a professional program, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS (www.uh.edu/caps) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you know is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the “Let's Talk” program, a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus.

http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html

My take: You do not wait until your car dies to have it serviced!