COSC 6360—OPERATING SYSTEMS

Instructor: Jehan-François Pâris
E-mail Addresses: jeparis AT uh DOT edu
Office Hours: After class
Phone: 713-522-3067 (office hours and during quizzes)
Class Schedule: MW 4:00–5:30 p.m.
Media of Instruction: MS Teams (COSC 6360 Fall 2020) and maybe Zoom Blackboard (quizzes and assignment submissions)
Piazza Page: https://piazza.com/uh/fall2020/cosc6360/home (wait for invitation)
“Old” Course Page: http://www2.cs.uh.edu/~paris/6360/resources.htm (Note the www2)
Class Recordings: To be announced on Piazza

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 during the first lecture.

OVERALL ORGANIZATION

The course will be offered online with synchronous lectures at the announced times. These lectures will be recorded for the benefit of those who cannot attend or want to review past lectures. Class attendance is expected but will not be monitored. Your presence is still required for the five quizzes and any absences on a quiz day will behave to be justified.

You are invited to turn the camera on at all meetings as it makes the meeting more pleasant for the instructor and your classmates. At the same time, you may have plenty of good excuses for deciding to keep the camera off.

MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS/EXAMINATIONS

There will be five quizzes on the readings, worth 60 percent of the semester average, and three to four programming assignments worth the remaining 40 percent. The last quiz will take place at the time and date of the final. All quizzes will be open book but time-limited. You will need a Mac or a Windows machine and install on it the Respondus LockDown Browser: (https://www.uh.edu/blackboard/downloads/Learn_LockdownBrowser_student_guide.pdf)

Please note that the Respondus browser does not run on iPads, Chromebooks or any kind of Linux machine. In addition, you must allow the instructor observe you through the camera of your computer for the duration of each quiz. Makeup quizzes will be offered to students not being able to take them at the required dates and times.

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.
No cheating or plagiarism will be tolerated in any quiz or graded assignment: what you turn in must be your own work. 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!

Please let the instructor 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. Do not wait until the last minute.

READINGS
A course reading list that will be posted online will covers paper 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.

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. If you have a Mac, the macOS bash shell is all what you will need. If you have a PC running the 64-bit version of Windows 10, you should install the Windows Subsystem for Linux. If you have any other version of Windows, please get in touch with the instructor.

KEY DATES
First Quiz Monday, September 14
First Program Due End of September
Second Quiz Monday, October 5
Second Program Due End of October
Third Quiz Monday, October 26
Third Program Due Last day of classes
Fourth Quiz Monday, November 16
Fifth Quiz Monday, December 14 at 5:00 pm

OTHER POLICY ISSUES
1. Please contact the instructor if you have any special need. We will work together around them.
2. Please refer to the Piazza course page for course notes, quiz solutions, review session questions and answers, and other announcements.
3. Please verify that the university has your correct email address: This is the only way the instructor has to get in touch with you for things like missing assignments and so on.
4. If, for some reason, you are in need of a laptop, you should get in touch with the UH Laptop Loaner Program: https://www.uh.edu/infotech/about/planning/off-campus/index.php#do-you-need-a-laptop
THE PROVOST OFFICE REQUIRES THE INCLUSION OF THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE IN ALL SYLLABI

Excused Absence Policy (required for all courses)

Regular class attendance, participation, and engagement in coursework are important contributors to student success. Absences may be excused as provided in the University of Houston Undergraduate Excused Absence Policy and Graduate Excused Absence Policy for reasons including: medical illness of student or close relative, death of a close family member, legal or government proceeding that a student is obligated to attend, recognized professional and educational activities where the student is presenting, and University-sponsored activity or athletic competition. Additional policies address absences related to military service, religious holy days, pregnancy and related conditions, and disability.

Recording of Class (required for all courses)

Students may not record all or part of class, livestream all or part of class, or make/distribute screen captures, without advanced written consent of the instructor. If you have or think you may have a disability such that you need to record class-related activities, please contact the Center for Students with DisABILITIES. If you have an accommodation to record class-related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. Classes may be recorded by the instructor. Students may use instructor’s recordings for their own studying and notetaking. Instructor’s recordings are not authorized to be shared with anyone without the prior written approval of the instructor. Failure to comply with requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Students Office and may result in disciplinary action.

Syllabus Changes (required for all courses)

Due to the changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, please note that the instructor may need to make modifications to the course syllabus and may do so at any time. Notice of such changes will be announced as quickly as possible through the Piazza course site.

Religious Holy Days: Students whose religious beliefs prohibit class attendance or the completion of specific assignments on designated dates may obtain an excused absence. To do so, please make a written request for an excused absence and submit it to your instructor as soon as possible, to allow the instructor to make arrangements. For more information, see the Student Handbook. [http://catalog.uh.edu/index.php](http://catalog.uh.edu/index.php)

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to college, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS ([www.uh.edu/caps](http://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. Also, there is no appointment necessary for the “Let’s Talk” program, which is a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus.