

COSC 6360—Operating Systems

Fall 2009

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Class Schedule MW 5:30-7:00 p.m. in SEC 203
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Teaching Assistant To be announced

COSC 6360 covers current topics in operating systems research. 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 wishing to consult a text might consider any recent edition of A. Silberschatz, P. Gavin and G. Gagne’s operating systems textbook. A good advanced book on UNIX is:

- M. K. McKusick, G. V. Neville-Neil, *The Design and Implementation of the FreeBSD Operating System*, Addison-Wesley (2004)

Students are expected to attend all lectures.

GRADING

There will be three pop quizzes, three examinations and one project. The tentative grading scale is 8% for the pop quizzes, 69% for the three exams and 23% for the project.

The pop quizzes will be unannounced, **open book** and cover the materials discussed during the two previous lectures. Your grade will be based on your two best quiz scores.

The three examinations will be **closed book**. You will be allowed one 11 by 8.5" sheet of notes for each examination.

No cheating or plagiarism will be tolerated in any graded assignment. You may paraphrase short segments of the papers you review but should not lift entire sentences without quoting them. You should neither follow the overall organization of any document that you did not write. The minimum penalty for any transgression will be an F grade for the course. You have been warned!

THE PROJECT

Your project should be a personal investigation of some particular topic of operating systems or distributed systems. Ideally, it should include some original research (measurements, simulations and so forth) and be summarized in a brief report (eight to ten double-spaced pages plus references, twelve pages or more for a mere survey paper). You will be assessed a ten point penalty per late day.

You should number your pages; use a reasonable point size (11 or 12) and reasonable margins (1" top and bottom, either 1" or 1.25" left and right) and follow a standard ACM or IEEE format in your list of references. Last but not least, have it stapled in the upper left corner.

IMPORTANT DATES

<i>One-page project proposal</i>	Early September
<i>First Midterm</i>	Wednesday, September 30
<i>Second Midterm</i>	Wednesday, November 4
<i>Paper due</i>	Wednesday, December 2 (Last day of classes)
<i>Final examination</i>	<i>At the time and date to be announced by the Office of Registration and Academic Records</i>

Please verify that the university has your **correct email address**: It is the only way I can contact you.