

CSC 376 Distributed Systems
2013-2014 Spring Quarter
Mon & Weds 10:10PM – 11:40PM
CDM 226
<http://d2l.depaul.edu/>

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M: 4:00-5:30PM W: 11:40-1:10

Summary Of Course

This course is an introduction to distributed systems. Topics may include: architecture of distributed systems; networking; datagram-oriented and stream-oriented protocols; network programming; remote procedure call and remote method invocation; processes and threads; selectable I/O; naming of non-mobile and mobile entities; cryptography and security.

Prerequisites

The prerequisites for this course are data structures (CSC383 or CSC393) and computer systems II (CSC374).

Grading Policy

Your overall grade for the course will be computed as follows:

Attendance	10%
Homework	30%
In class work	10%
Exam (week 7)	25%
Final Project	25%

Letter grades will be assigned according to the table below; however, the instructor reserves the right to adjust the scale in the student's favor. In other words, the table indicates the minimum letter grade you will receive for the given overall percentage. You may receive a slightly higher grade if the instructor feels an adjustment is necessary.

93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
60-66	D
0-59	F

Textbooks and Printed Resources

The required text for the course is:

Java Network Programming, 3rd Ed.

E. Harold

ISBN: 978-0-596-00721-8

Attendance

Attendance makes up 10% of your overall grade. For every class you miss (you are not in class by 11AM) you will lose 1% from your overall grade. For every class you are late (come in after I have taken attendance but before 11AM), you will lose 0.5% from your overall grade. Students will be excused from the first 1% worth of attendance penalties.

Homework

Homework must be submitted via the D2L system and is due before class begins. Late homework will not be accepted. There is a possibility that some written assignments will be submitted using the quiz section on D2L. All homework assignments (including those under the quiz section) have the same weight.

Students may work in groups of at most 3 students on homework assignments.

If the homework is completed as a quiz on D2L, each student must complete the assignment under his or her own account even if you worked on a team.

If the homework is submitted as a document or program, a single student from each team/group must submit the group assignment for everyone. The person submitting should write the names of all the students in the group in the comment box when submitting and everyone's names should appear within the submission itself (the document or code). Group members who are not submitting should submit a comment indicating who else is in the group and who is responsible for submitting the group's work. Note that D2L will require you to submit a file in order to submit the comment. Just submit some small file to satisfy the requirement and use the comment box to indicate your group.

The assignments are small enough that individuals can complete them on their own. I understand some students work better in a group; however, all group members must participate in all aspects of the assignment. The assignment cannot be broken up into pieces to be solved individually.

Make sure to test your submission! Download your submission into a clean folder and try compiling it and running it yourself to make sure it works.

Some assignments will require you to make use of the packet sniffer Wireshark. If you intend to work on your own machine, make sure to get that up and running. Alternatively, the 6th floor CDM lab should already have the software installed.

Some assignments will require you to write Java programs. Make sure you have Java 7 installed. (Note that Java 8 was released less than 2 weeks ago. It is probably best/easiest to stick with Java 7 for this class.) If I give you libraries, they will be built using the Java 7 JDK and may not work for you if you are using an older JDK. Also make sure your programs run at the command line as described in the write-up for the assignment. You will lose points if I cannot run your program exactly as described in the write-up.

In class work

We will periodically do in class work that will be submitted and graded. This will provide low-stakes assessment and learning opportunities for you. They cannot be made up, but the lowest in class assessment grade will be dropped so you can miss one without any penalty.

Exam - May 14 (Week 7)

There is an in-class exam during week 7 of the quarter. The exam is closed book and closed notes except for a single 8.5" by 11" sheet of notes (both sides). The sheet of notes must be turned in with your exam and will not be returned so please make a copy for yourself before taking the exam. The exam will take place in class on Wednesday, May 14, during the regular class time. Place this on your calendar now. Make-up exams will only be given for true emergencies and require documentation.

Final Project – In Person Demo on June 6. Code due June 5 at 5PM.

The final project will involve a significant amount of coding so get started early. Deliverables on the final project include the code itself and a live demo of your software on June 6. Again, you may work in groups of at most 3 students, but if you do, all team members must be present at the one and only demo for your team. More details will be given later in the course.

Email

Email is the primary way I communicate with students outside of class. To make email communication as smooth as possible, please make sure to do the following:

- Students should be sure their email listed under "demographic information" at <http://campusconnect.depaul.edu> is correct. All my emails to you will go to that address. When I reply to homework questions, I reply to the whole class and so the reply gets sent to your campus connect email address and not necessarily to the one from which you sent me the question.
- Send questions from an email address that identifies who you are. You have the best chance of getting through the email spam filter if you use your DePaul email address. You have the greatest chance of the email being filtered or of me ignoring it if you send it from an address that I cannot recognize immediately as a student in my class. (I once had a student send me email from way2sexy@hotmail.com and complain 2 weeks later that I wasn't answering his email.)
- Include the course number in the subject of all emails. If I receive an email from you without the course number (CSC376) in the subject, I will not notice that it is from a student and there will be a delay in receiving a reply. If I do not recognize what course you are in, I will not waste time looking up which course you are in, I will simply reply asking you which course you are in. This will of course add to the delay in getting your question answered, so just avoid all this and include the course number in the subject line.
- If your question was answered in the lecture or in another email, I will simply refer to the lecture or email. So if you did not understand something I said in class or in an email, be specific. Point out exactly what you didn't understand in my prior communication so that you don't get the generic reply of watch the video/read the email.

Online Teaching Evaluation

Evaluations are a way for students to provide valuable feedback regarding their instructor and the course. Detailed feedback will enable the instructor to continuously tailor teaching methods and course content to meet the learning goals of the course and the academic needs of the students. They are a requirement of the course and are key to continue to provide you with the highest quality of teaching. The evaluations are anonymous; the instructor and administration do not track who entered what responses. A program is used to check if the student completed the evaluations, but the evaluation is completely separate from the student's identity. Since 100% participation is our goal, students are sent periodic reminders over three weeks. Students do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation. Students complete the evaluation online in CampusConnect at <http://campusconnect.depaul.edu>

Academic Integrity Policy

This course will be subject to the faculty council rules on the Academic Integrity Policy

Plagiarism

The university and school policy on plagiarism can be summarized as follows: Students in this course, as well as all other courses in which independent research or writing play a vital part in the course requirements should be aware of the strong sanctions that can be imposed against someone guilty of plagiarism. If proven, a charge of plagiarism could result in an automatic F in the course and possible expulsion. The strongest of sanctions will be imposed on anyone who submits as his/her own work a report, examination paper, computer file, lab report, or other assignment which has been prepared by someone else. If you have any questions or doubts about what plagiarism entails or how to properly acknowledge source materials be sure to consult the instructor. See the plagiarism handout for some specific examples of what constitutes plagiarism in this class.

Incomplete

An incomplete grade is given only for an exceptional reason such as a death in the family, a serious illness, etc. Any such reason must be documented. Any incomplete request must be made at least two weeks before the final, and approved by the Dean of the College of Computing and Digital Media. Any consequences resulting from a poor grade for the course will not be considered as valid reasons for such a request.

Resources for Students with Disabilities

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential.

To ensure that you receive the most appropriate accommodation based on your needs, contact the instructor as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you contact the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at:

Student Center, LPC, Suite #370

Phone number: (773)325.1677

Fax: (773)325.3720

TTY: (773)325.7296