

CSC376 Distributed Systems

Syllabus for Fall 2014

Corin Pitcher

7 September 2014

Overview

An introduction to distributed systems. Topics may include: architecture of distributed systems; networking; synchronous and asynchronous network programming APIs; protocol design and implementation; remote procedure call; threads and shared memory concurrency; cryptography and security.

Instructor Information

- **Instructor** Dr. Corin Pitcher
- **Loop Office** 835, CDM Building, 243 S. Wabash Avenue
- **Email** cpitcher@cs.depaul.edu
- **Tel** +1 312 362 5248
- **Instructor's Homepage**
<http://fpl.cs.depaul.edu/cpitcher/>
- **Course's Homepage**
<http://fpl.cs.depaul.edu/cpitcher/courses/csc376/>
(for lectures slides, assignments, reading schedules, examples, learning outcomes)
- **LMS Homepage**
<http://d2l.depaul.edu>
(for grades and video recordings)
- **Office Hours** : http://my.cdm.depaul.edu/people/facultyInfo_mycti.asp?id=104

Prerequisites

If you are not sure that you have satisfied the prerequisites, speak to the instructor before the second lecture.

Prerequisite Courses

You should have completed the following courses before CSC376 begins. You should not take these prerequisite courses concurrently with CSC376.

- **Data Structures in Java II** (CSC301)
- **Computer Systems II** (CSC374)

Prerequisite Skills

- In this class you will use a Linux virtual machine on your own computer to conduct networking experiments and complete assignments. You must be familiar with Linux shell (command-line) usage.
- This class will use Scala as the programming language for all experiments. The fragment of Scala used will be straightforward for experienced Java programmers. This class is not suitable for those with little or no Java programming experience.

Textbooks

There is one required textbook:

- *Java Network Programming*, 4th edition, by Harold. Published by O'Reilly & Associates, 2014. ISBN: 978-1449357672

Assessment

The course grade will be based on:

Item	Weight
Attendance	5%
Course log	15%
Homework assignments	40%
Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	20%

- The final exam is comprehensive, i.e., requires knowledge of the material covered in the entire course.
- You must complete the final exam to pass the course.

Policies I

Changes to Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class, posted under Announcements in D2L or COLWeb, and sent via email.

Attendance

1. Students are expected to attend class.
2. Students are expected to subscribe to the mailing list, and read emails in a timely fashion.
3. The midterm exam and final exam dates are posted on the schedule on the [course homepage](#). You must attend the midterm and final exams. A medical note will be required for an absence. Business trips or vacations are not valid reasons for missing the exam.
4. **Lecture slides are a supplement to lectures only.** The slides are not intended to be read in lieu of listening to the lecture.

Homework

1. Students must keep backup copies of all submitted homework.
2. Students will create a log consisting of notes and experiments conducted during the course. This log must use the org-mode format (for the Emacs text editor).
3. Homework assignments will be distributed and submitted via repositories using the Git distributed version control system. Students must use their personal Git repository to retrieve and submit each assignment. Students will need to:
 - Create a (free) personal [BitBucket account](#).

- Install Git and an SSH client. For Linux, install Git and SSH via your package manager. For Windows and OS X, consider .
 - Create an SSH keypair and paste your public key into your BitBucket account settings web page.
 - Read the BitBucket tutorials:
 - <https://www.atlassian.com/git/tutorial/git-basics>
 - <https://www.atlassian.com/git/tutorial/remote-repositories>
 - Clone your personal repository.
4. Students must verify that homework has been submitted correctly, i.e., by logging in to the BitBucket web interface to check that their modifications have been uploaded.
 5. Homework submissions are usually due by 5:00PM on the day of class. **Late submissions will not be accepted at all because each assignment is discussed in class.**
 6. Homework submissions must be submitted online via the Git repository. **Email submissions will not be accepted at all.**
 7. Submitted work must be worked on individually. You must not use or look at anyone else's solution, and you must clearly acknowledge any code that you obtain from other sources (such as books, magazines, or the Internet). If you are in any doubt, contact the instructor well before the submission date for advice. You may use as much code as you like (without acknowledgement) from the examples discussed in class. Plagiarism will result in penalties up to and including failing the course.

Expectations

1. Several languages and tools will be used. Students are expected to learn these languages and tools without the level of guidance that would be available for 100 and 200 level classes.
2. The course requires that students actively engage the material on your own. Students should not only read the notes and example programs, but also do self-tests, modify code, and run it. As always, figure out what you can definitely code, code it, try it, and then consider extending the boundaries.

3. Students must keep up with the assigned textbook reading.
4. Students are strongly encouraged to ask questions and offer comments relevant to the day's topic.
5. All electronic interactions are an extension of the classroom and should be treated as such. While disagreement can be part of the discourse, online communication should remain respectful and appropriate rather than demeaning and/or unprofessional.
6. Classroom use of a laptop or tablet must normally be restricted to class-related tasks such as note taking, checking references, testing code examples, etc.

Policies II

Retro-Active Withdrawal

CDM understands certain extenuating circumstances can hinder one's ability for academic success and completion of course work. Please see <http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Enrollment-Policies.aspx> for additional information.

Absence Notifications

In order to petition for an excused absence, students who miss class due to illness or significant personal circumstances should complete the Absence Notification process through the Dean of Students office. The form can be accessed at <http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/dos/academicprocesses.html>. Students must submit supporting documentation alongside the form. The professor reserves the sole right whether to offer an excused absence and/or academic accommodations for an excused absence.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>. If you have any questions be sure to consult with your professor.

Academic Policies

All students are required to manage their class schedules each term in accordance with the deadlines for enrolling and withdrawing as indicated in the University Academic Calendar. Information on enrollment, withdrawal, grading and incompletes can be found at: <http://cdm.depaul.edu/enrollment>

Incomplete Grades

An incomplete grade is defined in the Student Handbook as follows (note that the policy in the undergraduate student handbook applies to both undergraduate and graduate students): A temporary grade indicating that the student has a satisfactory record in work completed, but for unusual or unforeseeable circumstances not encountered by other students in the class and acceptable to the instructor is prevented from completing the course requirements by the end of the term. Please see <http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Grading-Policies.aspx> for additional information.

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 have contacted the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at: <mailto:csd@depaul.edu>

- Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd.
- Phone number: 312 362 8002
- Fax: 312 362 6544
- TTY: 773 325 7296

Dean of Students' Office

The Dean of Students' Office (DOS) helps students navigate the college experience, particularly during difficulty situations such as personal, financial,

medical, and/or family crises. For a list of support services and advocacy information, please visit <http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/dos/>.

Online Course Evaluations

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. 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.