

NET 311 Syllabus – Computers in Telecom. Systems – Autumn 2020

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Office Hours	Thursdays 10:00 – 11:30 (or by appointment)	Website	d2l.depaul.edu
Class Location	Online on Zoom	Class time	Tuesdays 6 pm – 9 pm

--- Any changes made to this syllabus will be announced in class as well as D2L --- This is Version 1: Sept 1 ---

Course Overview

This course is an introduction to computer architecture and operating systems with an emphasis on network systems. Topics covered include computer components and functions, logic circuits, process management, memory management, file management, interrupts and I/O peripheral devices, as well as computer networks, distributed systems, and network administration. Students will have several hands-on labs utilizing a Linux environment and will use Shell script for basic systems and network administration as well.

Resources:

Optional textbook: *Systems Architecture*, 7th edition, by Stephen Burd. **Publisher:** Course Technology; 7 edition (2015)

Grade distribution over required coursework

Task	% of final grade
2 Homework assignments	20 %
2 Lab exercises	20 %
Midterm exam	25 %
Final exam	30 %
Class participation	5 %

Coursework

Course topics expected to be covered in each class and the corresponding readings from the textbook, are listed on page 3. The Class Participation grade will be earned as follows: students gain 0.5% credit towards their final grade for each lecture actively attended (until the maximum of 5.0% of the final grade). Active attendance means that you will respond/contribute when I call upon you, and/or actively engage in class discussions.

Online asynchronous students (enrolled in section NET 311-710) gain 0.5% for each active contribution/discussion based on questions posed in class. These are typically directly at online students, where I call upon them (individually or collectively) to answer a given question or comment on a specific topic/challenge, and expect the response prior to the next class.

Course policies

General 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: cdm.depaul.edu/enrollment. Note that **September 22nd, 2020** is the last date to drop the class with no penalty.

Plagiarism

There is a "zero-tolerance policy" regarding plagiarism. This stands for both the plagiarizer and the person(s) facilitating plagiarism (e.g., allowing someone to plagiarize their work). There's a great resource put together by DePaul University, which you can find here: <https://resources.depaul.edu/teaching-commons/teaching-guides/learning-activities/Pages/avoiding-plagiarism.aspx>

Academic Integrity

One of the core principles of education is establishing Academic Integrity. It is a viable component in the classroom, one by which learning objectives could be honestly and efficiently met. The principles of academic integrity should span all of your learning endeavours, within and beyond this course. For more information on Academic Integrity, especially definitions and norms, please visit: <https://resources.depaul.edu/teaching-commons/teaching/academic-integrity/Pages/default.aspx>. This will be the basis of all of our interactions in this course. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to drop by and see me.

Deadlines and submission policies

Assignments are due on D2L by 11:59 pm on the deadline day posted on each assignment, unless otherwise announced. All of your work (exams, assignments, report, etc) must be your original work. Any evidence of departure from Academic Integrity will be reported, and ensuing sanctions will be pursued. You are expected to read, understand and comply with DePaul's policy on Academic Integrity, which you can reach from the aforementioned website.

Late submissions receive a 10% penalty for every 24 hour delay, starting from the minute past the deadline.

Missing exams and/or deadlines

Emergencies happen and that is quite understandable. If you miss an exam due to a certain emergency (e.g., accident, emergency hospitalization, etc) please communicate with me as soon as you can to resolve any outstanding issues. If a major illness hinders you from attending an exam or submitting a deliverable (assignment), you need to contact me beforehand via e-mail. Notices received after the deadline will not be accounted for (unless for an emergency as highlighted above). If the illness occurred after the deadline, even if accompanied with a doctor's note, you would receive a zero for that exam/deliverable.

Otherwise, missing an exam without prior approval will warrant an automatic zero. Generally, all extensions are considered on a case-by-case basis. Falling sick prior to a deadline does not automatically warrant an extension. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate in contacting me.

Disability Accommodation

Feel free to speak to me as soon as possible regarding any difficulties you feel you might be encountering in this course, ideally within our first week of classes. Kindly refer to DePaul's Center for Students with Disabilities website at <https://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/about/departments/Pages/csd.aspx>. If you feel that any given disability is hindering you, or you are not sure and wish for a consult, please reach out to CSD at csd@depaul.edu; they are trained to help out and point you to the appropriate resources.

Grade calculation

Final grades will be calculated as follows: points earned divided by possible points in each category will be multiplied by the contribution percentages shown to yield a total course percentage score between 0% and 100%. Letter grades will be assigned as:

A = 90% - 100%	A- = 88% - 90%	B+ = 86%-88%	B = 80% - 86%	B- = 78% - 80%
C+ = 76% - 78%	C = 70% - 76%	C- = 68% - 70%	D+ = 66% - 68%	D = 60% - 66%
		F = 0% - 60%		

Class schedule and topics

Week	Class date	Tentative Topics	Textbook readings	Assignments (on the week of - tentative)
1	Sept 15	Course overview Computer Architecture	Ch. 1 Ch. 2	
2	Sept 22	Data Representation Processor technology and Architectures CPU and Digital/Logic Circuit Designs	Ch. 3 Ch. 4	HW 1 posted
3	Sept 29	Memory management File systems and storage hierarchies	Ch. 5	HW 1 due
4	Oct 6	Operating Systems Process Synchronization and Management	Ch. 11	HW 2 posted
5	Oct 13	Midterm exam		
6	Oct 20	Caching systems and Personal Clouds Intro to Linux	Ch. 12	HW 2 due
7	Oct 27	Principals of Network simulation Mininet – Basic Network Configuration	Ch. 9	Lab 1 posted
8	Nov 3	Linux System & Network Administration Performance metrics	Ch. 6	Lab 1 due
9	Nov 10	Distributed Application Services Directory Service (LDAP)	Ch. 13	Lab 2 posted
10	Nov 17	Virtualization <i>Final Exam preparation</i>		Lab 2 due
	Nov 24	Final Exam 18:00 – 20:00		

Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Perform numbering conversions and Boolean operations
- Describe the components of a Computer's system architecture, and those of network devices
- Describe the logical components of an operating systems, and their functions
- Perform OS scheduling functions and process synchronization
- Install Linux on a Virtual Machine (VM) environment.
- Perform system and network administration on a VM environment.
- Evaluate system performance using various measurements, and identify pertinent KPIs

Final course grading

Students in all undergraduate classes, with the exception of those in CEO cohort programs, may opt to change the grading basis for any or all of their courses to Pass/D/Fail. A grade of Pass (P) will indicate that the student's work met expectations for a grade of at least C-. Work that would merit a grade of D+ or D in the traditional grading basis would still earn a D+ or D. Work that does not merit a passing grade will earn a Fail (F). The Pass/D/Fail grading option may apply to any graduation requirement, including courses in the major, minor, Liberal Studies Program or open electives. Please read more here:

<https://resources.depaul.edu/coronavirus/faqs/Pages/classes-academics-students.aspx>

Exams (midterm and final) will be carried out using Respondus & LockDown

Respondus Monitor is a proctoring application that builds on the LockDown Browser using a webcam to assist with the academic integrity of online exams. When this feature is enabled for a quiz or exam, students are required to use a webcam and microphone with LockDown Browser to ensure that the testing environment facilitates academic honesty. After the exam is complete, instructors have access to a report that shows any students with any flagged issues. Instructors are able to review the reports and associated recordings to determine if a violation occurred.

- Assessments are displayed full-screen and cannot be minimized.
- Browser menu and toolbar options are removed, except for Back, Forward, Refresh and Stop.
- Prevents access to other applications including messaging, screen-sharing, virtual machines, and remote desktops.
- Printing and screen capture functions are disabled.
- Copying and pasting anything to or from an assessment is prevented.
- Right-click menu options, going to previous screens (i.e. previous questions), function keys, keyboard shortcuts and task switching are disabled.
- An assessment cannot be exited until the student submits it for grading.

Zoom Overview:

We're going to meet using Zoom, a video conferencing tool. Zoom allows people to gather in a virtual room and meet synchronously, as well as record the session for offline viewing. Please find the access info to join our Zoom classes in the "Welcome to Class" news item. During our sessions, I'll be speaking to you directly, and going over Power Points slides (sharing my screen). I'll also be recording our sessions and uploading them to our D2L course site.

Attendance Expectations for OLSYN – Remote synchronous students (those enrolled in Section 701) :

You are expected to **actively** attend all classes via Zoom, in lieu of attending in person for an in-class session. You need to participate in the discussions, and demonstrate that you are engaged with the material. Throughout the classes, you will be called upon to answer questions and/or engage in discussions. Your participation grade is earned through these interactions. This is vital to sustain a lively "remote class" environment.

Attendance Expectations for OLASY – Remote asynchronous students (those enrolled in Section 710) :

Students enroll in the asynchronous version for many reasons. Those who have a timing conflict, can watch the recording offline. Those who can make the class time, are encouraged to join the live Zoom sessions if they wish to do so.

Online students are not exempt from the participation requirement, you are still expected to watch the full class recordings. During the class sessions, I will ask students attending asynchronously to answer specific questions, and they need to respond (via email) within 6 days of the class, to earn participation points).

Best Practices During our Zoom Session:

List your name: Please sign in with your full name, so I know who's who.

Muting your audio (and video): Unless you're actively speaking, please keep your audio muted. This will help prevent background noise in our discussion. If you need to get up and change locations, please mute your video before you move. You'd be surprised how distracting it is to see a camera in motion during the session!

Speaker View and Gallery View: There are two ways to view the Zoom participants:

- **Speaker View:** This view prioritizes the person speaking, so you'll see a large-screen view of the speaker and a handful of other participants right above.
- **Gallery View:** This is the "Brady Bunch" view, where you'll see a grid with small videos of all participants. A small green box will appear around the person speaking.

Screenshare and Full Screen View: If someone in the Zoom session starts sharing their screen, Zoom will automatically go into “full screen mode” on your computer. You can navigate out of full screen mode by hovering your mouse over the video, and at the top, clicking View Options > Exit Full Screen.

Muting notifications: If you un-mute your audio and you’re speaking, remember that the class will be able to hear any audio coming through. So, if you get a text message or email notification, we’ll hear it. You may want to mute your notifications when our Zoom session starts.

Chat option: Given that I'll be running multiple tasks, I **will not** be able to look at the chat window all the time. Please don't use it. If you need to say something, simply use the "**raise your hand**" option.

Video: Yes, I am planning to keep my video on. You are encouraged to do so as well, however that is totally up to you. If you do keep your video on, please conduct yourself as you would in a public place. I'd rather not make a lengthy list of Zoom etiquette here, but I trust you'll use your common sense :)

Video background: While it is tempting to use the "background" option, remember that it will (very) quickly eat up your battery power. Also, it can get distracting :) if you choose one, please make sure it is neutral/simple.

Additional Zoom Resources: [Getting Started with Zoom](#) | [How to Join a Meeting](#)

Course evaluations

During the course, your feedback on how well the course is running (pace, difficulty, resources, etc) will be solicited. This is a vital component of improving and tailoring this course to your learning objectives. While all students are expected to achieve the learning outcomes highlighted above, each of us inevitably learn differently. This course is designed to meet the aforementioned learning outcomes, and I will endeavor to incorporate different activities to improve the learning experience.

If you have any concerns about how the course is running, or would like to suggest an improvement, feel free to reach out to me. Also, on week 10, we will hold the official course evaluations in class.