

CSC 376 – Distributed Systems

Spring 2012-2013

Prof. Marrero

Course Summary

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

Course grades will be computed using the following weights for the exams and homework:

Homework 35%

Midterm Exam 35%

Final Project 30%

Overall grades will be assigned as follows:

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

Exams

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 midterm exam is in class on May 8. Note that this is later than the usual midterm schedule! Students must take the exam at the scheduled time so make sure to clear your schedule now.

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 in order to take advantage of automated grading. 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.

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 the latest version of Java installed and that your programs run at the command line as described in the writeup for the assignment. You will lose points if I cannot run your program exactly as described in the writeup.

Final Project

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. 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.

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.

Email

Email is the primary means of communication between the instructor and students enrolled in this course outside of class. All students must make sure that the email address listed for them under "demographic information" on campus connect is correct.

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.

Note that for this class, copying code from other students past or present (other than at most the two other students in your group) or from books or online resources is also considered plagiarism.

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