

15-213
Fall 2008

Introduction to Computer Systems

Majd F. Sakr
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Topics:

- **Staff, text, and policies**
- **Lecture topics and assignments**
- **Lab rationale and infrastructure**

Teaching staff

■ Instructors

- Prof. Majd F. Sakr
- Prof. Khaled A. Harras

■ TA's

- Jackson Davis

**Come talk to us anytime!
(Or phone or send email)**

Textbooks

Randal E. Bryant and David R. O'Hallaron,

- “Computer Systems: A Programmer’s Perspective”, Prentice Hall 2003.
- <http://csapp.cs.cmu.edu>

Brian Kernighan and Dennis Ritchie,

- “The C Programming Language, Second Edition”, Prentice Hall, 1988

Course Components

Lectures

- Higher level concepts

Recitations

- Applied concepts, important tools and skills for labs, clarification of lectures, exam coverage

Labs

- The heart of the course
- 1 or 2 weeks
- Provide in-depth understanding of an aspect of systems
- Programming and measurement

Getting Help

Class Web Page

- <http://www.qatar.cmu.edu/~msakr/15213-f08/>
- Copies of lectures, assignments, exams, solutions
- Clarifications to assignments

Message Board

- <http://autolab.qatar.cmu.edu>
- Clarifications to assignments, general discussion
- The only board your instructors will be monitoring (No blackboard or Andrew)

Personal help

- Professors:
 - K. Harras, office hour, appt, or when door is open.
 - M. Sakr, office hour, appt, or when door is open.
- TAs: office hour, email, or appt.

Policies: Assignments

Work groups

- You must work alone on all labs

Handins

- Assignments due at 11:59pm
- Electronic handins using Autolab (no exceptions!).

Makeup exams and assignments

- Only when necessary, but must make PRIOR arrangements with Prof. Sakr or Prof. Harras.

Appealing grades

- Within 7 days of due date or exam date.
- Labs: Talk to the lead person on the assignment
- Exams: Talk to Prof. Sakr or Prof. Harras.

Cheating

What is cheating?

- **Sharing code:** either by copying, retyping, looking at, or supplying a copy of a file.
- **Coaching:** helping your friend to write a lab, line by line.

What is NOT cheating?

- **Helping others use systems or tools.**
- **Helping others with high-level design issues.**
- **Helping others debug their code.**

Penalty for cheating:

- **Removal from course with failing grade.**

Detection of cheating:

- **We do check and our tools for doing this are much better than you think!**

Policies: Grading

Exams (40%)

- Two in class exams (10% each)
- Final (20%)
- All exams are open book / open notes.

Attendance & Participation (5%)

Labs (55%)

- 7 labs (6-12% each)

Grading Characteristics

- Lab scores tend to be high
 - Serious handicap if you don't hand a lab in
 - We offer generous redemption programs
- Tests typically have a wider range of scores

Facilities

Labs will use the `unix.qatar.cmu.edu` servers

- Pentium Linux servers for CS 213
- Your 123 accounts should still be valid.

Getting help with the unix machines:

- See IT
- Please direct questions to your TA

Programs and Data (6)

Topics

- Bits operations, arithmetic, assembly language programs, representation of C control and data structures
- Includes aspects of architecture and compilers

Assignments

- L1 (datalab): Manipulating bits
- L2 (bomblab): Defusing a binary bomb
- L3 (buflab): Hacking a buffer bomb

Performance (2)

Topics

- High level processor models, code optimization (control and data), measuring time on a computer
- Includes aspects of architecture, compilers, and OS

Assignments

- L4 (perflab): Optimizing code performance

The Memory Hierarchy (2)

Topics

- Memory technology, memory hierarchy, caches, disks, locality
- Includes aspects of architecture and OS.

Assignments

- L4 (perflab): Optimizing code performance

Linking and Exceptional Control Flow (3)

Topics

- Object files, static and dynamic linking, libraries, loading
- Hardware exceptions, processes, process control, Unix signals, nonlocal jumps
- Includes aspects of compilers, OS, and architecture

Assignments

- L5 (tshlab): Writing your own shell with job control

Virtual Memory (4)

Topics

- Virtual memory, address translation, dynamic storage allocation
- Includes aspects of architecture and OS

Assignments

- L6 (malloclab): Writing your own malloc package

I/O, Networking, and Concurrency (6)

Topics

- High level and low-level I/O, network programming, Internet services, Web servers
- concurrency, concurrent server design, threads, I/O multiplexing with select.
- Includes aspects of networking, OS, and architecture.

Assignments

- L7 (proxylab): Writing your own Web proxy

Lab Rationale

Each lab should have a well-defined goal such as solving a puzzle or winning a contest.

Doing a lab should result in new skills and concepts

We try to use competition in a fun and healthy way.

- **Set a reasonable threshold for full credit.**
- **Post intermediate results (anonymized) on Web page for glory!**

Autolab Web Service

Labs are provided by the Autolab system

- Autograding handin system developed in 2003 by Dave O'Hallaron
- Apache Web server + Perl CGI programs
- Beta tested Fall 2003, very stable by now

With Autolab you can use your Web browser to:

- Review lab notes, clarifications
- Download the lab materials
- Stream autoresults to a *class status Web page* as you work.
- Handin your code for autograding by the Autolab server.
- View the complete history of your code handins, autoresult submissions, autograding reports, and instructor evaluations.
- View the class status page