Computer Science 4520
Introduction to Computer Architecture
Fall 2019

Revised: August 23 (see Ethics policy---MUST work on homework in teams)

Meeting Time: 1:00-1:50 P.M., Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
Meeting Location: Austin 303
URL: http://www.cs.ecu.edu/~rws/c4520/

Instructor: Dr. Ronnie W. Smith  
Email: rws@cs.ecu.edu
Office: Sci-Tech C-117  
Phone: 328-9687

Office Hours:  
Mondays  10:00 – 11:30 A.M.  
2:30 – 3:30 P.M.
Wednesdays 10:00 – 11:30 A.M.
Thursdays  1:30 – 2:30 P.M.  
(or by appointment)

Course Goals
1. To learn and apply design principles for single processor systems.
2. To gain proficiency in evaluating design choices in single processor systems.
3. To prepare students for more in-depth study of parallel systems.

Prerequisite
CSCI 2410

Text
Computer Systems: Organization & Architecture by John D. Carpinelli  

Evaluation Criteria
Exams/Assignments – 70% (Exam dates: September 13, October 4, October 25, November 15, and November 25 – dates subject to change. Relative weighting of exams to assignments is about ¾ exams and ¼ assignments.)
Final Exam – 30% (Friday, December 6, 11:00 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.)

Grading Scale
An absolute grading scale has not been set, but you can be assured of at least the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final Average (x)</th>
<th>Grade will be at least</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≤90</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80≤x&lt;90</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73≤x&lt;80</td>
<td>C</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

I continually review how to properly incorporate +/- modifiers in a fashion consistent with the purposes of the course and the qualitative descriptions for grades (see undergraduate catalog).
Class Attendance
Attendance is mandatory and will be checked. Each unexcused absence will reduce your final average up to 1 point.

If you are more than 5 minutes late and it is unexcused, your tardiness will be counted as an unexcused absence.

A dean's excuse or student health excuse is required for an absence to be considered excused. If an exam is missed, it will be made up via the other exams.

Late Work
No late assignments will be accepted without an official excused absence. All work is due at the start of class.

Ethics
It is considered CHEATING to obtain assistance other than from the instructor for exam questions (and especially for the answers!). Assignments MUST be worked on in teams of two or three students. You should not consult with anyone outside your team on the assignments.

Virtual Office Hours
Besides physical office hours noted on the previous page, virtual office hours are available on an ad hoc basis. This refers to times during the week when I will try to answer student emails. My policy for answering emails will be the following.

- First priority during physical office hours will be visitors and phone calls. Secondary priority will be answering emails.
- On weekday evenings (Monday through Thursday), I usually check email at least once, but normally no later than 9:30 P.M.
- On weekends, I will normally try to look at email at some point on Sunday afternoons after 2:00.
- You should not rely on me answering emails quickly at other times, though I will sometimes be able and willing to do that.

Hints for success
1. Do the reading in advance.
2. Be an active listener and learner in class.
3. Form a study group.
4. Work suggested exercises (and maybe even ones not suggested).

University Mandated Syllabus Information
The university requests that we include information in each syllabus on retention requirements, student conduct, weather emergencies, and ADA compliance. This information is available on a separate page provided in the online syllabus at the course web site.