COURSE SYLLABUS

CSC425: OPERATING SYSTEMS
FALL 2008

3 credit hours
Prerequisites: CSC 255, (331 OR 365); Recommended: 170, 220
Time and place: TR 09:25-10:40 room C-13
Last day to drop: Mon Oct 13

Instructor: Dr G. Jan Wilms
Office: C-59
Office Hours: M-F 08-09
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Objectives:

This course is designed to introduce the student to the concepts, structure, and mechanisms of modern-day operating systems. Students will study the Linux operating system hands-on, both from a practical (end-user) perspective and from a theoretical (kernel code) point-of-view.

Topics that will be covered are:
- historical developments
- basic principles of processes and threads
- system resources management:
  - CPU (including SMP)
  - Memory
  - File system (including I/O and device drivers)
- inter-relationship between an OS and the architecture
- the design and functioning of commercially popular OSs, in particular Linux

Method of instruction:
Most of the course will be taught through guided reading and unsupervised lab work, with some lecturing.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, appropriate accommodations will be made to meet documented needs. Students should discuss their situation with the instructor following the first class meeting.

Supplies and Textbook:

Required Reading:
- Readings assigned by the instructor.

Recommended Reading:
Evaluation:

Grading Distribution:
Tests: 20%
Labs: 60%
Research: 20%

Grading Scale:
A: 95 - 100; B: 85 - 94; C: 75 - 84; D: 65 - 74; F: Below 65

Classroom Policies:

Attendance:
Regular and successive attendance is expected. In the event that a class is missed, it is the student's responsibility to find out about assignments, handouts, etc. Students who know in advance that they will be absent are asked to please notify the instructor.

Academic Dishonesty:
The CS department holds students to the highest ethical standards with respect to plagiarism. ACM's Code of Ethics defines the latter as a "misrepresent[ation of] ideas, words, computer codes or other creative expression as one's own" (http://www.acm.org/constitution/code.html). For all assignments (research papers, presentations, programs, or homework), students must give due credit to all sources used. Students found guilty of plagiarism will receive a 0 for the assignment on the first offense, and an incident report will be filed with the Chair. Upon any second offense in the department, students will receive an F for the course and they will be reported to Administration.

Late Policy:
Assignments will be collected at the beginning of class on the due date. Projects will not be accepted late unless arrangements have been made with the instructor. Graded assignments should be archived until the end of the semester. Documented excused absences are needed for taking make-up exams.

Email:
Email is an official channel of communication, so students are expected to monitor their GroupWise account regularly.

This syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.