

Course Outline

Instructor: C. Schramm, Room 4444ME, 520-2600 ext. 2470, schramm@sce.carleton.ca

Course Description and Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to give a foundation in computer systems and systems software. It is intended for those who are familiar with programming in high-level languages (C, C++, Pascal, Java, etc.) but have little undergraduate training or working experience in the principles of computer science or computer systems engineering. Recent graduates of Computer/Electrical Engineering or Computer Science degree programs may not take the course. Such students would normally proceed directly to courses for which SYSC 5704 is a prerequisite.

Prerequisites: Programming experience with at least one high level language and permission of the professor.

Textbook:

Miles Murdocca and Vincent Heuring, *Computer Architecture and Organization: An Integrated Approach*, Wiley

Some other recommended textbooks are:

- Andrew S. Tanenbaum, *Structured computer organization*, 5th edition, Prentice Hall.
- William Stallings, *Computer Organization and Architecture: Designing for Performance*, 7th edition, Prentice Hall.
- Leland L. Beck, *System Software: An Introduction to Systems Programming*, 3rd edition, Addison-Wesley.
- William Stallings, *Operating Systems: Internals and Design Principles*, 5th edition, Prentice Hall.
- Andrew S. Tanenbaum and Alfred Woodhull, *Operating systems: design and implementation*, 3rd edition, Prentice Hall

Some books will be put on reserve in the library. Supplementary lecture notes will be available from the web page for topics not covered in the text.

Web Site

The departmental website for the course is <http://www.sce.carleton.ca/courses/sysc-5704/>. The username and password for the website will be given in class. A weekly schedule of lecture topics and textbook readings will be posted. You are expected to consult this schedule often.

Contacting your Instructor

The instructor will hold weekly office hours for consultation. **The times are posted on the course web-site.** In addition to academic help, the office hours are the recommended vehicle for discussing course-related concerns.

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Exam:

A closed book, no calculators, final exam will be held during the University's formal examination period. *The final exam is for the evaluation purposes only and will not be returned to the student.*

Students who miss the final exam **may** be granted permission to write a deferred examination (See the [Graduate Calendar](#) for regulations on deferred exams). Students taking deferred examinations have several more months to study than their colleagues. Also they have a less-crowded examination schedule. Thus it is only fair to the majority of students to expect a substantially better performance on the deferred examination than on the final

Grading Scheme:

To pass the course, all course components must be completed, regular attendance is required, the final exam must be passed, and an appropriate overall mark must be earned:

- Three assignments (30%) due at the **beginning of class on the assigned due date.** There will be **no credit** given for late homework assignments.
- Term paper (20%) Students will pick a topic in the field of computer systems and write a paper. The topic must be approved by the professor. Students will present their papers in class toward the end of the semester.
- Final exam (50%) in class.

Medical Certificates:

A medical certificate must adhere to the format required by the Registrar. The format is available as a PDF form through the Registrar's website <http://www.carleton.ca/registrar/forms.htm>. All medical certificates must be dated no later than one working day after the exam, and be presented immediately upon return from the illness.

Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the Centre, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by November 16, 2009.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism (copying and handing in for credit someone else's work) is a serious instructional offense that will not be tolerated. Please refer to the section on instructional offenses in the Undergraduate Calendar for additional information.

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Health and Safety Information

The link to the health and safety manual is www.sce.carleton.ca/courses/health-and-safety.pdf

Weekly schedule (Tentative)

Week 1: Course Introduction & Historical Overview of Computer Systems.

Weeks 2 & 3: Basics of Computer Architecture and Organization

Week 4 & 5: Languages and the Machine: Assembly and High Level Languages

Week 6: Assembly Process and Compilers

Week 7: Memory Systems

Week 8: Buses and I/O Systems and Networking

Weeks 9 & 10 Operating Systems and Concurrency

Week 11: Performance Analysis and Benchmarking

Weeks 12 Alternative Architectures & Parallel processing

Week 13 Presentations