ECE 5350 --- Operating Systems

Fall 2024

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Texts: Operating System Concepts (10th Edition)
by Abraham Silberschatz, Peter Galvin, and Greg Gagne
Distributed Systems: Concepts and Design (5th Edition)
by George Coulouris, Jean Dollimore, Tim Kindberg and Gordon Blair

Course Description: Review of fundamental operating system design concepts. Introduction to distributed operating system concepts. An independent study on cloud computing where students read research literature and write a survey/tutorial article on cloud computing.

Prerequisite: ECE 3352 Operating System Design or its equivalent (C or better)

Class Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9AM to 10:20AM (CCSB 1.0204)

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30AM to 1PM (Eng. A340)

Course Outline:

Weeks 1-2:	Introduction to Operating Systems (OS Chaps. 1 and 2)
Weeks 3-4:	Introduction to Processes/Threads and Scheduling (OS Chaps. 3, 4, and 5)
Weeks 5-6:	Process Synchronization (Critical Section Problem) (OS Chap. 6)
Week 7:	Deadlocks: Characterization and Prevention (OS Chap. 7)
Weeks 7-8:	Memory Management (OS Chaps. 8 and 9)
Week 8:	**Midterm Exam**
Weeks 9-10:	File Systems (OS Chaps. 10 and 11)
Week 11:	Introduction to Distributed Systems (DS Chaps. 1 and 2, OS Chap. 16)
Week 12-13:	Distributed System Communication (DS Chaps. 4 and 5)
Week 14-15:	Distributed File Systems (OS 11.8 and Chap. 17, DS Chap. 12)
Week 15:	Distributed Process Synchronization [*if time permits*] (OS Chap. 18)

Grading:

Assignments/Quizzes	35%
Survey Article	15%
Midterm	25%
Final	25%

Survey Article:
Students are expected to independently develop a significant expertise on cloud computing by studying material in the research literature and writing a **brief** *tutorial/survey article* on this topic.

Students will read and understand the following two articles:

1. L. Vaquero, L. Rodero-Merino, J. Caceres, M. Lindner, "A Break in the Clouds: Towards a Cloud Definition", *ACM SIGCOMM Computer Communication Review,* vol. 39, no. 1, pp. 50-55, January 2009.
2. M. Armbrust, A. Fox, R. Griffith, A.D. Joseph, R.H. Katz, A. Konwinski, G. Lee, D.A. Patterson, A. Rabkin, I. Stoica and M. Zaharia, "A View of Cloud Computing", *Communications of the ACM*, vol. 53, no. 4, pp. 50-58 April 2010.

In addition to the two articles above, students will find survey articles and articles describing original research results on cloud computing. Students will select four articles in consultation with the course professor. Therefore, a total of six articles will be read and understood by the students. Each of the four articles must have been published in the last 10 years and come from IEEE and ACM conferences and journals. At least two of the articles must have been published in the past five years.

Reading and comprehending these research articles will further develop student expertise on cloud computing. In addition, students will have a good sense for the cloud computing problems currently being investigated by researchers. In the tutorial/survey article students will express in tutorial style the fundamentals of cloud computing and then transition into a thorough description of some of the problems researchers are investigating.

Course Outcomes:
1. Students will understand the differences between: program, process, and thread.
2. Students will understand several techniques for process scheduling that minimize average completion time and place an upper bound on response time. Students will understand the basics of scheduling theory.
3. Students will understand the issues that arise with concurrent software and techniques for resolving these issues.
4. Students will understand process synchronization methods to resolve software concurrency issues. The process synchronization methods will include those designed for distributed systems.
5. Students will understand how to characterize a deadlock condition among multiple processes and techniques for resolving deadlocks. The deadlock resolution techniques will include those designed for distributed systems.
6. Students will understand techniques for managing the lowest level of the memory hierarchy: Virtual Memory.
7. Students will understand the design principles for both centralized and distributed file systems.
8. Students will understand how to conduct a research literature review and write a tutorial/survey article.

Academic Honesty

During exams and quizzes, you are not allowed to use any form of wifi enabled electronic device, including cell phones or other electronic communication devices or methods (wrist watches, earbuds, etc.). No wrist watch or other electronic device may be worn.

No electronic version of the book, loose paper print-outs of the book or extra sheets of paper of any kind are allowed unless explicitly mentioned in writing by the instructor. As a part of the zero-tolerance policy, if you have a cellphone or other electronic device capable of communication on your person; or if any proctor sees or hears any electronic device during the exam or if you share your work with someone else, you will be reported to the proper authorities and you may receive a zero on the exam and an F in the class. Other actions including suspension may also be pursued.

If anyone leaves the exam room during an exam they must be accompanied by a proctor. This includes restroom breaks.

University approved recording devices may also be located at various locations in the room and may be out of sight of the students. These recordings will be managed according to the UTEP approved regulations for such media.

If you are suspected of scholastic dishonesty you may not be directly confronted about your conduct by the instructor or proctor. You will however, be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) and your exam will not be admissible. Your grade in the class may not be available until OSCCR makes a final ruling, this may adversely impact your ability to enroll in other classes.

There will be no makeup exams administered. If you have a university approved excuse, your instructor will have a process for determining how to handle the missing grade outlined in the syllabus. However, no makeup exams will be given.

If you miss more than one exam, the instructor may choose to administratively drop you from the class. This may adversely impact a visa and financial aid.

Any food or drink brought into the examination room is subject to careful inspection by a proctor.

Departmental policy allows for the use of assigned seats. All students must present their UTEP issued ID prior to and during every exam and may be required to sign in. Not having a UTEP issued ID when asked will result in forfeiture of the exam.

Scholastic dishonesty on homework, lab assignments and all other class assignments will be held to the same standards and requirements of academic honesty as quizzes and exams.

Class Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory. Anyone with 5 or more absences will be dropped from the class. A drop for not attending will count toward the State Allowed Six Drop Limit. If you are failing the class at the time of the drop you may also be given a WF designation. Be advised that a drop could adversely impact visa status, financial aid and other programs.

As per UTEP rules, you may be asked to show a UTEP ID at any time during class. Anyone who is present and not registered in the class will be subject to disciplinary action unless the instructor gives prior approval.

Excused Absence for Exams

The UTEP catalog allows Exam Absence to be excused ONLY for University-Recognized Activities and very specific other situations. Medical absence is NOT allowed in the UTEP catalog. For consistency with the catalog, students will NOT be excused from exams due to illness.

Harassment Policy

The department has a zero-tolerance policy for harassment. Engagement in any behavior considered harassment will be reported to the proper authorities. In addition to generally understood forms of harassment, the department also treats the following behavior as harassment:

· Repeated emails and/or calls regarding subjects that have already been addressed. Once a decision has been made or a question answered, a student who continues to ask the same question will be given a warning by the recipient of the email/call. If the student continues, the behavior will be reported. Questions that seek understanding of course material are not harassment; but repeated questions about a grade or an administrative decision are.

· Grades are NOT negotiable, ever. You receive the grade you earned, not the grade you want or even desperately need. If you believe a grading mistake has been made, you must follow the process described in the UTEP catalog. Any request for a grade elevation that is NOT based on a mistake is considered harassment and will be reported immediately.

· Remaining in an office after the occupant requests you leave is considered harassment and potentially threatening. You will be reported immediately without warning and depending on the severity, may be reported to law enforcement.

· Similar behavior towards department staff, and student advisors will also be treated as harassment, including persistent phone calls, emails, and badgering. Department staff and student advisors are there to help students, and should be treated with due respect.

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass. *CASS' Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.*