Instructor
Dr. Robert A. Walker
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http://www.cs.kent.edu/~walker

Teaching Assistant
to be determined...

Course Prerequisites
The Undergraduate Catalog lists the prerequisites for this course as CS 35101 Computer Architecture and a grade of “C” or better in CS 33001 CSII: Data Structures. Equivalent courses taken elsewhere are also acceptable.

Course Overview
The goal of this course is to provide an introduction to the internal operation of modern operating systems. In particular, the course will cover processes and threads, mutual exclusion, CPU scheduling, deadlock, memory management, and file systems. If time permits, we may briefly examine networking and distributed computing or other topics related to operating systems theory.

Textbook
The required textbook for this course is:

   Operating Systems Concepts, 8th Edition,

You should purchase a copy of this textbook and keep up to date in reading the material assigned at each lecture. Saving some money by ignoring the textbook and concentrating solely on my lecture notes would not be a wise idea.

Class Web Page
The web page for this class is http://www.cs.kent.edu/~walker/classes/os.f08 (a link to this page is available on my home page).

The class web page will contain links to the current class syllabus and schedule, lecture notes, homework assignments, exams and solutions, etc. It will also contain links to previous instances of this class. You might want to check the web page on a regular basis, in particular when a homework assignment is outstanding or an exam is eminent.

Lectures
Students are expected to attend each lecture. I will often take roll, and while I understand that it may occasionally be necessary to miss a class, in general I expect you to attend each lecture and to be in the classroom when I start my lecture. If too many students start skipping class, or coming to class
late, I reserve the right to give a “pop quiz” at the beginning of class that will count as a homework assignment in determining your course grade.

I generally hand out all or most of my slides for each lecture, and put the slides online on the class web page. You should not consider skimming these slides to be an adequate substitute for attending the lecture, as my lectures consist of more than me simply reading my slides to the class.

In my lectures, I will use both the “official” slides provided by the textbook authors, as well as some slides of my own. My slides are drawn from a variety of sources. The required text provides much of the material, although some material may be drawn from other books on operating systems. I have also used lecture notes from other professors as source material, in particular old notes by John Ousterhout (as modified by Kathryn McKinley, Bradley Chen, Mendel Rosenblum, and Tom Anderson), Divyakant Agrawal, Steve Chapin, Paul Farrell, and Mikhail Nesterenko.

Homework Assignments
There will be approximately 3-4 homework assignments during the semester. Assignments and due dates will be announced as the semester progresses.

No late homework submissions will be accepted unless you make prior arrangements with me, or have a documented illness (in which case I expect you to contact me as soon as possible).

Exams
There will be two midterm exams (held during class) and a final exam (held during finals week). Exam dates will be announced as the semester progresses.

All exams are closed book and closed notes, and must be individual work. It is expected that you take each exam at the scheduled time, unless you make prior arrangements with me or have a documented illness (in which case I expect you to contact me as soon as possible).

Grades
Your final course grade will be broken down as follows:

• Homework assignments (3-4) 40%
• 2 midterm exams 40%
• Final exam 20%

The final course grade will be determined with A = 90–100, B = 80–89.99, etc. There will be no curve at the end of the course, so you should always be able to determine your course grade.

Instructor Absences
Over the course of the semester, I will have to miss a few classes to attend a conference or other professional meeting. This is a normal occurrence at research-oriented university with a flourishing graduate program, where professors are expected to regularly attend conferences and professional meetings to remain current in their fields. They then bring their insights from those events into the classroom, which benefits you as a student. Further, by attending those meetings, they make other professionals aware of Kent State, which increases your visibility and the value of your degree.

I will make every effort to minimize these absences, or to arrange for my class to be covered during my absence in such a way as to avoid disrupting the flow of the class. When this is not possible, it may occasionally be necessary for me to cancel a class, or to schedule a makeup class at some other time, but such occurrences are usually rare.
Registration Requirement *(added at the request of the College of Arts & Sciences)*

The official registration deadline for this course is September 7, 2008. University policy requires all students to be officially registered in each class they are attending. Students who are not officially registered for a course by published deadlines should not be attending classes and will not receive credit or a grade for the course. Each student must confirm enrollment by checking his/her class schedule (using Student Tools in FlashFast) prior to the deadline indicated. Registration errors must be corrected prior to the deadline.

Student Accessibility *(added at the request of the College of Arts & Sciences)*

University Policy 3342-3-01.3 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary classroom adjustments. Please note, you must first verify your eligibility for these through Student Accessibility Services (contact 330-672-3391 or visit www.kent.edu/sas for more information on registration procedures).

Academic Integrity

Student-teacher relationships are built on trust. Students must trust that teachers have made appropriate decisions about the structure and content of the courses they teach, and teachers must trust that the materials that students turn in are their own. Acts that violate this trust undermine the educational process. In this course, the penalty for any act of academic dishonesty is a final course grade of F.

STUDENT CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM: Condensed Version *(added at the request of the College of Arts & Sciences)*

For the complete policy and procedure, go to www.kent.edu/policyregister and search for 3342-3-01.8, or visit http://www.kent.edu/policyreg/chap3/3-01-8.cfm

Cheating and plagiarism constitute fraudulent misrepresentation for which no credit can be given and for which appropriate sanctions are warranted and will be applied.

The university affirms that acts of cheating and plagiarism by students constitute a subversion of the goals of the institution, have no place in the university and are serious offenses to academic goals and objectives, as well as to the rights of fellow students.

"Cheat" means to intentionally misrepresent the source, nature, or other conditions of academic work so as to accrue undeserved credit, or to cooperate with someone else in such misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

1. Obtaining or retaining partial or whole copies of examinations, tests or quizzes before these are distributed for student use;
2. Using notes, textbooks or other information in examinations, tests and quizzes, except as expressly permitted;
3. Obtaining confidential information about examinations, tests or quizzes other than that released by the instructor;
4. Securing, giving or exchanging information during examinations;
5. Presenting data or other material gathered by another person or group as one's own;
6. Falsifying experimental data or information;
7. Having another person take one’s place for any academic performance without the specific knowledge and permission of the instructor;

8. Cooperating with another to do one or more of the above;

9. Using a substantial portion of a piece of work previously submitted for another course or program to meet the requirements of the present course or program without notifying the instructor to whom the work is presented; and

10. Presenting falsified information in order to postpone or avoid examinations, tests, quizzes, or other academic work.

“Plagiarize” means to take and present as one’s own a material portion of the ideas or words of another or to present as one’s own an idea or work derived from an existing source without full and proper credit to the source of the ideas, words, or works. As defined, plagiarize includes, but is not limited to:

a. The copying of words, sentences and paragraphs directly from the work of another without proper credit;

b. The copying of illustrations, figures, photographs, drawings, models, or other visual and nonverbal materials, including recordings of another without proper credit; and

c. The presentation of work prepared by another in final or draft form as one’s own without citing the source, such as the use of purchased research papers.

Academic Sanctions

The following academic sanctions are provided by this rule for offenses of cheating or plagiarism. Kent campus instructors shall notify the department chairperson and the student conduct office each time a sanction is imposed. Regional campus instructors shall notify the regional campus dean and the student conduct officer each time a sanction is imposed. Regional campus student conduct officer shall notify the Kent student conduct office each time a sanction is imposed by a regional campus Instructor. The following academic sanctions are provided by this rule for offenses of cheating or plagiarism. In those cases the instructor may:

1. Refuse to accept the work for credit; or

2. Assign a grade of "F" or zero for the project, test, paper, examination or other work in which the cheating or plagiarism took place; or

3. Assign a grade of "F" for the course in which the cheating or plagiarism took place; and/or;

4. Recommend to the department chair or regional campus dean that further action specified in the rule be taken. The department chairperson or regional campus dean shall determine whether or not to forward to the academic dean or to the vice president for the extended university a recommendation for further sanction under this rule.

Academic Appeals

The general principle that applies to the following procedures is that an appeal is directed to the administrative level immediately above the unit from which the appeal emanates.

Appeals are limited to the following reasons:

a. The decision is arbitrary or unreasonable,

b. The decision resulted from a procedural error,

c. The decision is not in accordance with the facts presented,

d. New information is available which may suggest modification of the decision.