

CPSC 220 Introduction to Computer Architecture

Fall 2008

Administrative

- Instructor
 - Marc Corliss (corliss@hws.edu), Lansing 300
- Office hours
 - Mon/Wed 3-4, Thu 10-12, Fri 9-10
- Date and location
 - Lecture: Mon/Wed/Fri 10:10am-11:05am, Lansing 301
 - Lab: Thu 11:55am-1:20pm, Library Multimedia Lab (room 1002)
- Textbook
 - "Introduction to Computing Systems: From Bits & Gates to C and Beyond", 2nd edition, by Yale N. Patt and Sanjay J. Patel
- Webpage
 - <http://math.hws.edu/mcorliss/teaching/fall08/cs220>

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A Little About This Course

- This course shows how millions of transistors come together to form a processor
- Gives a broad introduction to computer architecture
 - Learn about all aspects of computer architecture
 - At expense of some depth
- Introduction to other courses in computer systems
 - e.g., compilers (433), operating systems (431), networking (441)
- Pre-req is CPSC 124
 - There is a significant amount of programming in this course
- Intermediate, 2nd-level course in computer science
 - More shorter assignments rather than several large projects

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Lab Work

- CS 220 has a required lab component
 - Unlike previous offerings
 - Labs give students hands-on experience and help (computer science is best learned by *doing*)
- Meet weekly on Thursdays at 11:55 in Library Multimedia Lab
- Each lab will have an assignment that must be completed by the start of the next lab (note: some labs will be due in 2 weeks not 1)

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Workload

- Attendance/participation
- Labs
- Homeworks
- Quizzes
- Midterm exams
- Final exam

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Attendance/Participation

- Must attend all lectures
 - Make sure you keep up with the material, also help significantly in doing projects
 - Should also be an active member: participate in discussion, ask questions
- Miss policy
 - Can miss at most 3 combined lectures and labs without it affecting your grade
 - If miss more than 3, lose 10% of attendance/participation grade per day missed (1% off final grade per day missed)

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Labs

- This class has a required lab component
 - Each Thursday at 11:55am in Library Multimedia Lab (room 1002)
- Gives hands-on experience and a chance to get help from me
- Lab worksheets will be handed out
 - Usually will be due at start of next lab
 - Longer labs will be due in two weeks at start of lab and worth twice the points
 - Note: usually not intended to be completed within the lab period
- To be completed individually
- Lowest lab grade will be dropped
 - If 2 week lab, then only half the points can be dropped
- Late labs are not accepted

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Homeworks

- Some short written homeworks covering non-programming material
 - Expect around 5 homeworks (although could be as many as 7)
- Will be turned in on paper at the start of the class on the day it is due
- To be completed individually
- Help make sure you keep up with material and are ready for exams
- Probably be more homeworks earlier in the semester than later
- Warning: homeworks will overlap with labs

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Quizzes

- 7 (15 minute) quizzes
 - A quiz roughly every two weeks
- Help make sure you keep up with material and are ready for exams
- Won't necessarily be announced in advance
 - First one on Monday, September 8th
- Two lowest scores will be dropped
- If you miss or are late for a lecture with a quiz, then you will receive a 0
 - Quizzes cannot be made up for any reason

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Midterm Exams

- Two in-class written midterm exams
 - First exam: scheduled tentatively for Monday, 9/29
 - Second exam: scheduled tentatively for Friday, 11/7
 - Let me know in advance if this does not work for you!
 - Exams can be made up if you have a compelling reason and you let me know well in advance

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Final Exam

- Written final exam
- Scheduled (by the registrar) for 8:30am-11:30am on Friday, Dec. 19th
 - Cannot be rescheduled
 - Makeup exam given only with documentation from Dean
 - Must be done in advance

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Grading

- Attendance/Participation - 10%
- Labs - 35% (~3.5% each)
- Homeworks - 10% (~2% each)
- Quizzes - 10% (2% each)
- Midterm exams - 20% (10% each)
- Final exam - 15%

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Academic Integrity

- HWS principle of academic integrity governs course work
- All exams are to be completed individually
 - Exams will be closed book
- Labs are to be completed individually
 - Will be using MOSS (software analyzer) find plagiarized software
 - MOSS is highly accurate at finding cheating
- Homeworks are to be completed individually
- Work you submit *must* be your own

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Center for Teaching and Learning

- Students who need to enhance study skills can contact center for teaching and learning (CTL)
 - CTL is in Harris Hall, phone number 781-3351
- If you have an identified disability and would like to receive accommodations, please contact me
 - Need documentation from CTL

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Webpage, Schedule, and Email

- Make sure you view the course webpage regularly
 - <http://math.hws.edu/mcorliss/teaching/fall08/cs220>
- Second, make sure you view the lecture and lab schedules regularly
 - <http://math.hws.edu/mcorliss/teaching/fall08/cs220/schedule.html>
 - http://math.hws.edu/mcorliss/teaching/fall08/cs220/lab_schedule.html
 - Let me know if you have any conflicts!
- Finally, make sure you check your HWS email regularly

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