

CPSC 331 Operating Systems

Operating Systems

- the operating system is in charge of making sure the system operates correctly and efficiently in an easy-to-use manner

Operating Systems: Three Easy Pieces

- virtualization
 - transforming a physical resource (CPU, memory, disk) into a more general, powerful, and easy-to-use virtual form
 - CPU (processes)
 - memory
- concurrency
 - working on many things at once
 - threads and mechanisms for thread safety
- persistence
 - storing data even when the power goes away or the system crashes
 - disks and filesystems

Course Website

<http://math.hws.edu/bridgeman/courses/331/s26/>

CPSC 331: Operating Systems Spring 2026

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Office Hours drop-in office hours: TBD
office hours are also available by appointment if you cannot make the scheduled times

Class Hours and Meeting Place lecture: MWF 12:00-1:00pm — room Napier 202

Course Links

- [Schedule](#)
(the course schedule, including links to assignments, readings, slides and examples from class, handouts, etc — pretty much everything you want on a daily basis is here)
- [Textbook](#)
(online copy of the textbook)
- [Course Policies](#)
(expectations and evaluation, attendance, late/makeup work, extensions, academic integrity and collaboration, use of AI, getting help, accommodations, etc — things you should read at the beginning of the semester, then refer back to as needed)
- [Course Information](#)

Key Things to Pay Attention To

- in addition to class, expected to attend five lab sessions
 - effort will be made to schedule these at a time everyone can attend
 - can be made up by attending office hours instead
- attendance policy

Key Things to Pay Attention To

- learning is an iterative process, and practice, feedback, and revision are important elements
 - revise and resubmit policy
- late policy
 - late work should be rare, not routine
 - late work is not directly penalized, but a pattern of repeated lateness significantly harms learning and performance
 - hand in something on time, even if it is incomplete
 - assignments not in my possession at the time of grading (for hardcopy handins) or printing (for electronic handins) may miss that grading window
 - use resubmits to improve, not to delay
 - for short, last-minute emergencies, communicate promptly
 - for known conflicts, plan ahead

Key Things to Pay Attention To

- assignments and grading
 - weekly homeworks + (roughly) biweekly projects
 - for learning and practice, revise and resubmit applies
 - four exams (roughly one per main unit)
 - final exam is a cumulative second chance opportunity for the material on exams 1-3
 - in-class exams carry significant weight, and an average of 70 or higher on the exams is required for a C- or better in the course

Key Things to Pay Attention To

- collaboration, outside resources, and use of AI
 - assignments are about learning the process of figuring out the answer, not simply getting the answer
 - your primary resources should be the course materials (textbook, slides and examples from class, things posted on the course webpage) and office hours
 - if you work with others or use other resources, including AI, it should be to explain and understand the course materials, not to produce solutions for assignments
 - unless otherwise specified for a particular assignment, AI is not allowed