

## 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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Gulick 203, x3614

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