



CSCI 450 – Computer Architecture

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2023

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor	Michael J Henry
Office Location	RELLIS ACB106
Office Hours	by appointment
Email	mhenry at rellis dot tamus dot edu (1 to 2 business days)

COURSE INFORMATION

Lectures (time/location):

- Monday 9:10-11:40am

Textbook(s) **Required:**

- Andrew S. Tanenbaum and Todd Austin, “Structured Computer Organization”, 6th Ed.

Course Description

The class in general will cover how a program controls the very hardware that makes up a computer. Topics include computer system performance metrics and analysis; instruction set design; CPU organization (data path and control, out-of-order execution, register renaming, branch handling techniques, supporting precise interrupts in out-of-order pipelines, superscalarprocessors); memory systems (caches, virtual memory, TLBs, multi-level cache hierarchies, cache subsystem optimizations); input-output systems; storage systems and RAIDs; and introduction to multicore and multithreaded processors.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this course, students should be able to:

- Understand the operations and timing issues of modern microprocessors, memory systems and input/output devices, and the interactions among these components.
- Understand how hardware and software layers – such as the specific algorithm, programming language, compiler, instruction set architecture, and processor implementation – impact program performance.
- Measure the performance of key processor features, such as caches and branch predictors.
- Articulate a comprehensive view of architecture and performance for real-world computers.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

PREREQUISITES:

- COSC 1437 or COSC 1337 or CSCI 152, minimum grade C.
- COSC 2325 or CSCI 241, minimum grade C.

Instructional Methods

During this course, we will use traditional and active learning methods, and work together using:

- In-class lectures using slides, supplementary materials, and hands-on exercises.
- Assignments that will be released via the Learning Management Systems (D2L).
- Individual / group projects: details of the project will be released during week 3.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

1. It is expected that you are the owner of your success in this course, including ensuring you understand the expectations, timelines, policies and learning objectives.
2. Baseline expectations:
 - a. Check LMS frequently.
 - b. Follow the material in the textbook frequently, and use the slides as your guideline.
 - c. Start your homework assignments early.
 - d. Check the feedback on homework assignments.
 - e. Do your work independently: collaboration and participation in study groups is encouraged to improve your understanding and to develop problem-solving strategies. However, cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated, i.e. do not copy other people's work.
 - f. Communicate with the instructor when you are confused, or having difficulties with the course material / assignment / project.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%, B = 80%-89%, C = 70%-79%, D = 60%-69%, F = 59% or Below.

Assessments	Assessment Type	Weight of Final Grade	Learning Objectives
Assignments		20%	Understanding of concepts and problem solving
Quizzes & Participation		10%	
Exam 1		25%	
Exam 2		25%	
Term Report & Presentation		20%	

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week	Course Subject
Week 1	Introduction
Week 2	Processors (instruction sets, registers, RISC and CISC)
Week 3	Processors (continued), primary memory and secondary memory
Weeks 4-6	Digital Logic (gates, ALU, flip-flops, memory)
Week 7	Exam 1
Week 8	Microarchitecture (data path, cache memory, register renaming)
Week 9	Spring Break
Week 10	Microarchitecture (continue)
Week 11-12	Instruction Set Architecture (ISA, data type, instruction format/types, addressing, control flow)
Week 13	Operating System Machine
Week 14	Assembly Language
Week 15	Parallel Computer Architectures
Week 16	Project Due, Exam 2

*The schedule is **tentative** and may be adjusted to fit the actual class progress.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements: <https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support: https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements: <https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student is expected to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. In case of extreme technology related circumstances, please communicate directly with the instructor to best manage your success in this course.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

To communicate with me about this course, kindly use the email address included in this syllabus. During the week, you can generally expect a response to your emails within 1-2 business days. *If you do not receive my response in 2 business days, please send a second email to me.*

To ensure I get your email and respond within indicated timelines above, please make sure that:

- Your email message is sent from your Texas A&M student account.
- Your email message includes a descriptive subject with the indicated prefix:
CSCI 450 – Spring 2022 -- <descriptive subject>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Attendance is required. Students are expected to do the readings, attend class, and participate in class discussions. Each student is responsible for managing their own time and work-load. Emergency / extreme circumstances causing a student to miss deadlines/exams will need to be supported by official and university approved documentation.

Positive Learning Environment

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at Texas A & M University-Commerce. "All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedure, Conduct).

Sharing Your Work

All work produced by students may be shared by the instructor with the class for purposes of example and training. Such work will be as anonymous as possible. Finally, the instructor may share your work anonymously with future classes or in her own writing and research.

Submitting Assignments:

Unless special instructions are provided, assignments are NOT to be posted on any discussion board. Your completed work MUST be placed in the appropriate Dropbox in D2L Online. DO NOT EMAIL ME ANY ASSIGNMENTS AS THEY WILL BE DELETED. Please follow the rules for naming and posting assignments.

Late Work Policy

All assignments are due at the date and time specified.

Please keep in mind that NO late work will be accepted without penalty. If an assignment is turned in after the due date, **20% of the grade will be forfeited.** **An assignment must be submitted within 24 hours of the due date if you want it graded.**

- You have ONE 24-hour "late day" token that can be used on any of the assignments

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

- After you've used your token, assignments will still be accepted up to 24 hours late, but with a 20% penalty (automatically deducted).
- Assignments turned in more than 24 hours late will NOT be reviewed and will not be graded.

Additional extensions on assignments, will be granted with appropriate documentation. If you have a problem submitting an assignment on time, you should contact me **BEFORE** the due date.

Makeup Policy

There will be NO makeup exams or quizzes. If you shall miss a quiz/exam because of acceptable extreme circumstances (hospitalization, serious injury/sickness, death in the family etc.), you may be offered to choose to receive a grade based on your in-class ranking in the next quiz/exam.

Collaboration Policy

Students are encouraged to consult with each other, with the instructor, or anyone else about any assignments / project. However, this must be limited to the discussion of the problem and sketching general approaches to a solution. Each student is responsible for submitting their own independent solutions to the assignment / project. **Consulting another student's or group's solution is prohibited**, and submitted solutions may not be copied from any source. These and any other form of unacceptable collaboration on assignments constitute **cheating**. If you have any question or doubts about whether some activity would constitute cheating, please feel free to ask.

Academic Integrity

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. **For this class, all assignments / quizzes / exams / project are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified.**

Any student cheating will receive a zero on the work they are doing, and subsequent cheating will result in a failing grade and potential academic sanctions.

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Basic Tenets of Common Decency

“All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” (Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct.) This means that rude and/or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

Disclaimer

This syllabus is meant to provide general guidance of what to expect from this course. The instructor reserves the right to make changes as appropriate based on the progress of the class. All changes made to this syllabus during the semester will be announced. This document has been posted electronically. If you print a copy of it, please be sure to consult the last modified date of the online version to verify that your printed copy is current.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.