

# CS 3853 Computer Architecture Syllabus, Fall 2008

**Instructor:** Dr. Whaley (whaley@cs.utsa.edu)

**Office:** SB 4.01.12

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 11-12PM and Thursday 3-4PM, or by appointment.

**Office Phone:** 458-5545

**Class homepage:** [www.cs.utsa.edu/~whaley/teach/cs3853\\_F08/](http://www.cs.utsa.edu/~whaley/teach/cs3853_F08/)

**Class hours:** Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30PM to 10:45AM.

- Textbook**      Computer Architecture A Quantitive Approach, fourth edition by Hennessey & Patterson. You may also find Computer Organization and Design by Patterson & Hennessey helpful for background material.
- Prereq**        CS 3423 Systems Programming and CS 3843 Computer Organization. We will be programing in a unix environment, using ANSI C and make.
- Grading**      There will be three exams (one of which is the final), which will account for 55-75% of grade. There will be assignments (15-40%), which will mainly be programming projects but may also include some exercises. The final will be comprehensive, but, depending on how the class does, I may choose to allow the comprehensive sections to be skipped for students with high enough grades. The exact policy will be announced prior to the final exam. Students are expected to be able to explain the workings of their own programs, and may be called upon to do so. If they cannot, no credit will be given for that assignment. 5-10% of grade will come from class participation and/or quizzes.
- Attendance**    You are responsible for all material presented in class. Exams and due dates will be scheduled in advance. A grade of zero will be recorded for missed exams unless prior arrangements are made (only allowed in extraordinary circumstances). Assignments turned in after the due date, but before the beginning of the next scheduled class will be penalized 10%. Assignments will not be accepted that are more than one class period late (resulting in a grade of zero).
- Cheating**     Students are encouraged to discuss programs in a general way to gain greater insight. Copying another's code, writing code for someone else, or allowing another to copy your code are cheating, and can result in a grade of zero for all parties. Therefore, take precautions so that your old printouts, unattended screen, etc. are not available to other students. Discussing the details of the solution or showing/examining actual code are not acceptable. If you are in doubt whether an activity is permitted collaboration or cheating, ask the instructor.

- Decorum** Students are expected to refrain from side conversation or other distracting behavior in class. Students should arrive on time for class; if late, come in quietly with a minimum of disturbance. All cell phones/pagers/PDAs/etc. should be turned OFF before the beginning of class, and not be consulted in any way during class. During testing, any such consultation may result in a grade of zero. Violations of this policy will minimally result in expulsion from the classroom, and repeated violation will result in expulsion from the course.
- Email** Questions about lectures, homework and course organization may be sent to the instructor or TA. We cannot guarantee an immediate response, but will address the issue through direct response, general announcement, or a suggestion to visit during office hours. Last minute questions (i.e. sent the night before an assignment is due) may not be answered before class begins, so tackling problems early is encouraged.
- Regrading** If you believe we have made an error in grading your exam or assignment, you may submit the graded work along with a written request for reconsideration. You must explain in writing clearly and succinctly the reasons your grade should be changed. In fairness to other students, we cannot vary the grading criteria on an individual basis, though suggestions may be taken into consideration for future classes.
- Material** We will minimally cover chapters 1, 2, 5, and appendix A. Additional material from chapters 3, 4 and 6 will be presented as time allows.
- Disability** If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact on your ability to carry out assigned course work, I would urge that you contact University Disability Services (DS), Multidisciplinary Studies Building, Room 2.03.18, 210-458-4157 (Voice), 210-458-4981 (TTY), 210-458-4980 (Fax), homepage: <http://www.utsa.edu/disability/>. Please bring a letter to me from the DS indicating your need for academic accommodations within the first week of class. The syllabus and other class materials can be made available in alternative format upon request.