

CSC 2204H -- OPERATING SYSTEMS

Fall 2006
Professor G.S. Graham
University of Toronto

[This course information sheet can be found at
<http://www.cs.utoronto.ca/~gsg/2204/handouts/info.htm>
The home page for the course can be found at
<http://www.cs.utoronto.ca/~gsg/2204/index.html>]

The course instructor is Professor G. Scott Graham. He can be contacted by e-mail at `gsg AT cs DOT utoronto DOT ca`, by phone at 416-978-6321, by fax at 416-978-4130, or in person in Room 5230, Bahen Centre for Information Technology. His office hours are "in the middle of the day" on many Tuesdays and right after class on Thursdays.

The lectures are from 11:10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Thursdays in the fall term, in Room BA 4010. There is no teaching assistant or tutorial associated with this course.

As for a text, virtually any modern OS textbook (e.g., by Nutt or Stallings or Tanenbaum or Deitel or Silberschatz or Deitel) is acceptable; there is no required text. It is probably in your best academic interest to have a copy of some OS principles book handy throughout the course, to read along. I hope that the course website will have useful links for lecture and assignment material.

The workload components of the course are

- 50%: some number (maybe 4) of problem sets, sprinkled throughout the course. Some will be small; none will be huge.
- 15%: a 1-hour in-class quiz, about 2/3 of the way through the course
- 25%: a time-limited take-home test, near the end of the course
- 10%: class participation

Each workload component will be labelled as either required solo (done by yourself) or team-enabled (if you choose, you can form a team to solve the problem). Before the first assignment is submitted, you will be asked to sign (one time) a pledge sheet, affirming that you as an individual are aware of the course details and the dangers inherent in academic offences. The pledge sheet is at <http://www.cs.utoronto.ca/~gsg/admin/pledge.pdf>. An

academic offence is a serious matter. Do not get involved with cheating, plagiarism, giving or receiving unauthorized assistance, and forgery, among other acts. There will probably be opportunities to use material gathered from the web. For this and other such references, ensure that you pay proper attention to attributing the material. You are governed by the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters, which may be found at <http://www.utoronto.ca/govcncl/pap/policies/behaveac.pdf> .

Silent running will be in effect for every workload component, typically beginning about 48 hours before each submission deadline. With silent running, there will be no further answers or messages (in person or by e-mail,) from the instructor. This is designed to create a "level playing field" for all students.

A traditional lecture approach would be to start with

- an introduction to operating systems, followed by
- a treatment of processes and threads,
- process communication, synchronization, and mutual exclusion
- processor scheduling
- memory management
- file systems
- disk subsystems
- introduction to distributed systems
- distributed file systems

These are all good topics, and the ordering of topics works. However, in this instance of 2204, in Fall 2006, we will hop around a fair bit.