

Course Syllabus



Overview

Welcome to CSC369H: Operating Systems. The course covers principles of operating systems with a focus on systems programming in C.

In this course, you will gain:

- Experience working with systems code written in C.
- Theoretical knowledge of and practical experience with:
 - Processes and Threads (address spaces, system calls, scheduling)
 - Synchronization (algorithms and structures like locks, semaphores, and monitors)
 - Virtual Memory (paging, page tables, eviction, segmentation)
 - File Systems (the file abstraction, directory structures, and disk I/O)

This material is core CS. Past students have indicated that the assignments in this course provided them with examples for interviews and that OS concepts featured prominently in interview problems. CSC369 is structured around a series of programming assignments covering key topics: threads, synchronization, virtual memory, and file systems. The lectures provide a historical and theoretical context for the assignments. However, they are not traditional lectures; while some material will be presented, some class time will also be spent in small group activities. The tutorial time will be used to reinforce the theoretical content through exercise, but will frequently be used to help you work on components of the assignments. We (your instructors), and your classmates, will expect you to be an active participant; to do so, *you must keep up with the readings and begin the assignments promptly*. There is solid evidence that starting early on assignments is correlated with success in the course (not to mention less stress), and higher than average grades. **None of the assignments can be completed if you start less than 3-4 days before the deadline.**

Course Information

Instructors:

Day Section (L0101)	Evening Section (L5101)
Name: Angela Demke Brown	Name: Kuei (Jack) Sun

Day Section (L0101)	Evening Section (L5101)
Office: BA5228	Office: BA4202A
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday, 2:10pm-3:00pm	Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:10am-11:50am

Meetings may be scheduled outside of regular office hours by request.

Communications:

Course Email: csc369-2023-09@cs.toronto.edu (<mailto:csc369-2023-09@cs.toronto.edu>)

Please use email for personal issues and Piazza for all other course-related questions. We will try to respond to email by the end of the next day. However, due to volume, it may take longer, especially on weekends. (We are often not able to answer email more than once on the weekend.)

Lectures:

All lectures will be held in-person at the locations indicated.

Day Section (L0101)	Evening Section (L5101)
Monday 1-2 p.m., MS 2170 (https://map.utoronto.ca/?id=1809#!m/494491?s/)	Wednesday 6-8 p.m., SS 2102 (https://map.utoronto.ca/?id=1809#!m/494510?s/)
Wednesday 1-2 p.m., MC 252 (https://map.utoronto.ca/?id=1809#!m/494474?s/)	

Note that the first day of lecture for LEC0101 is Monday September 11th. For LEC5101, the first day of lecture is Wednesday September 13th. For LEC0101, the lectures during Thanksgiving week will be shifted to Wednesday and Friday (tutorial time slot).

Format and Preparation for lectures:

You will regularly be assigned readings and/or short videos. They should be reviewed before the lectures so that we can spend more time in class working through some of the details. You will also be working

on exercises. Lectures will be recorded and one of the two recordings will be posted as soon as possible, for asynchronous viewing. However, students are expected to attend the lectures in person and complete the exercises during, or shortly after, the lectures.

Course videos and materials belong to your instructors, the University, and/or other sources depending on the specific facts of each situation, and are protected by copyright. In this course, you are permitted to download videos and materials for your own academic use, but you should not copy, share, or use them for any other purpose without the explicit permission of the instructors.

For questions about recording and use of videos in which you appear please contact your instructors.

Tutorials:

Tutorials are hosted at the following times, in room **BA3175**, **BA3185**, **BA3195**, and **BA2200** (not monitored).

Day Section (L0101)	Evening Section (L5101)
Friday 1-2 p.m. <i>No tutorial on Friday, September 8th.</i>	Wednesday 8-9 p.m. <i>No tutorial on Wednesday, December 6th.</i>

Please refer to [Tutorial Schedule \(https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315157/pages/tutorial-schedule?wrap=1\)](https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315157/pages/tutorial-schedule?wrap=1) for more information.

The purpose of the tutorials is to help you understand the exercises or assignments. During tutorial times, TAs will be available for questions on the course content.


Note:


- *There will be no tutorials during the week of Thanksgiving, but L0101 will have a lecture during the Friday tutorial time.*
- *During the midterm week, the midterm will be held in one of the lecture time slots, and a lecture will be given in the tutorial time slot, for both L0101 and L5101.*



TA Office Hours:

TAs are available to help students with assignments and tutorials during TA office hours. See [Office Hour Schedule \(https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315157/pages/office-hour-schedule?wrap=1\)](https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/315157/pages/office-hour-schedule?wrap=1) for more information.

Textbook(s):

We will be using a free text quite extensively [Operating Systems: Three Easy Pieces](#)  (<http://pages.cs.wisc.edu/~remzi/OSTEP/>) by Remzi H. Arpaci-Dusseau and Andrea C. Arpaci-Dusseau.

You may also find the following traditional text useful, but it is not required: [Modern Operating Systems \(4th Ed.\)](#)  (<http://www.pearsonhighered.com/educator/product/Modern-Operating-Systems/9780133591620.page>) by Tanenbaum and Bos.

You will also want a good C reference, such as [C Programming: A Modern Approach \(2nd Ed.\)](#)  (<http://knking.com/books/c2/index.html>) by King, or [C: A Reference Manual \(5th Ed.\)](#)  (<https://www.pearson.com/us/higher-education/program/Harbison-C-A-Reference-Manual-5th-Edition/PGM220244.html>) by Harbison and Steele.

Website and Discussion Board:

You will be able to find all course materials from this Quercus site. The Piazza discussion board is required reading. Please use Piazza to ask general questions, and remember to search to check if someone else has already answered the question. The instructor and/or TAs will be monitoring it daily.

Marking Scheme

Overview

ITEM	WEIGHT
Lecture Exercises	4 %
Tutorial Exercises (9)	7 %
Programming Assignments (4)	36 %
Assignment 1	
Assignment 2	9%
Assignment 3	9%
Assignment 4	9%

ITEM	WEIGHT
Midterm	18 %
Final Exam	35 %

Detailed Description

Lecture Exercises (4%):

There will be in-class exercises associated with the lectures during most classes. These will typically take the form of quizzes on Quercus or small auto-checked exercises on MarkUs and will be graded on best effort. In other words, you will get full marks for an exercise if we can tell that you have made a serious attempt at it. You may not get credit for the exercise if you do nothing and just submit. We will take the best $n-3$ out of n scores. We expect that n will be 23 so that each completed lecture exercise is worth 0.2%. We strongly encourage you to do these exercises in class to get a clearer understanding of the material. We welcome questions about these activities during the synchronous lectures. All lecture exercises for the week will be due on Thursday at the end of the day (11:59 p.m.) for both lecture sections, with the following exceptions:

- Exercises for the first four lectures are all due on Friday, September 22 at 11:59 p.m., to allow waitlisted students to complete them.
- Exercises for Lecture 10 are due on Monday, October 16 at 11:59 p.m., to accommodate the shift in lecture schedule due to Thanksgiving.
- Exercises for Lecture 16 are due on Monday, November 6 at 11:59 p.m., to accommodate the shift in lecture schedule due to the Midterm test.

No grace periods may be used for the lecture exercises.

Tutorial Exercises (7%):

For each tutorial, you will be asked to turn in a small piece of work or to work on an activity during the tutorial. These exercises will be auto-graded and should be completed individually. Where possible, you will be allowed to resubmit and we will take your final score. Many of these will be directly related to the assignments. We will take the best 7 out of 9 scores (1% each). There will be no tutorial exercises assigned in weeks when there are no tutorials.

Tutorial exercises are due on the following Monday at the end of the day (11:59 p.m.), for both lecture sections. No grace periods may be used for the tutorial exercises.


Programming Assignments (36%):

Over the term, you will complete 4 assignments that require you to write C code to implement some subsystem or solve some problem, related to operating system concepts. **All assignments must be completed individually.** All assignments must be submitted by checking your work into your MarkUs repository.

Midterm Test (18%):

There will be one 50-minute test on Wednesday, November 1st, which will be completed during your regular lecture time slot. Midterm coverage will be announced two weeks prior to the date of writing. You must attend your own lecture section for the midterm.

The midterm will be closed book.

LEC0101	Wednesday November 1st, 1:10-2:00 p.m., TBD  (http://tbd)
LEC5101	Wednesday November 1st, 6:10-7:00 p.m., TBD (https://map.utoronto.ca/?id=1809#!m/494453)

Final Exam (35%):

The Final Exam will be scheduled by Arts & Sciences in the final assessment period. It will cover all course material, including topics that were tested on the midterm test and questions about the assignments. The final exam will be closed book.

Policies

Minimum Standards for Submitted Work:

For your assignment to be graded, it must meet the minimum standards of a professional computer scientist. **All** files required to build the program must be submitted, and the program **must** compile cleanly, without errors or warnings on the teach.cs lab machines. Last-minute difficulties with git can easily be avoided by ensuring all files are added to the repository well before the deadline, and that you know how to commit and push them. Compiling and testing your work on the teaching lab machines at intermediate stages will avoid last-minute problems as well. **Submissions that are missing files or do not compile will receive a grade of 0.**

Late Work:

All assignments are submitted electronically and are due at **11:59:59 p.m. sharp** on the due date. Each student is granted **twelve 4-hour grace tokens** for the entire semester, to be used on any of the assignments as you see fit. Submitting an assignment up to 4 hours late uses one token. Once your tokens have been exhausted, late assignments *will not be accepted*, except in extremely special circumstances. *Grace tokens may not be used for tutorials or exercises.*

The grace tokens are provided to help you deal with minor, unforeseen disruptions to your work schedule. However, instructional staff will not answer questions about the assignments after the deadline has passed. Make sure you start early and have a good understanding of the assignment requirements, even if you expect to use the grace period to complete your work.

Please note that a submission made at 12:00:00 a.m. after the due date will be considered late. You should ensure that your work is not submitted at the very last second. Since you will be using version control, it is very easy to commit regularly to avoid running into the deadline.

Religious Holidays:

If a religious holiday will keep you from completing any assigned work, please let us know as soon as possible (but no later than two weeks before the due date), and we will work out a mutually agreeable accommodation.

Emergencies:

In the event of an illness or other catastrophe that affects your ability to do your academic work, consult the course instructors right away. Normally, you will be asked for documentation in support of your specific circumstances. This documentation may take the following forms:

- Absence declaration via [ACORN \(https://www.acorn.utoronto.ca/\)](https://www.acorn.utoronto.ca/)
 - *The University has updated its policies on the use of the Absence Declaration, which can now only be used in case of (a) a health condition or personal injury, (b) a personal or family emergency, or (c) bereavement. Students may submit **one absence declaration per academic term**, to declare an absence for a **maximum period of seven consecutive calendar days**. The seven-day declaration period can be retroactive for up to six days in the past, or up to six days in the future, but it must cover the period in which the missed academic obligation occurred.*
- [U of T Verification of Illness or Injury Form \(VOI\)](http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/index.php) (<http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/index.php>)
 - *The VOI indicates the impact and severity of the illness, while protecting your privacy about the details of the nature of the illness. If you cannot submit a VOI due to limits on terms of use, you can submit a different form (like a letter from a doctor), as long as it is an original document, and it contains the same information as the VOI (including dates, academic impact, practitioner's signature, phone and registration number). To download a copy of the VOI, please see <http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca> (<http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/index.php>).*
- College Registrar's letter

- Letter of Academic Accommodation from Accessibility Services

For more information on documentation of absences for Arts and Science students, including limitations on the use of the Absence Declaration tool, refer to the [A&S Student Absences](http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/absence) (<http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/absence>) page. It is always easier to make alternate arrangements before a due date, so please inform us as soon as you know that you will need accommodation. If you get a concussion, break your hand, or suffer some other acute injury, you should register with Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

Re-mark Requests:

If a piece of work has been marked incorrectly or if you believe the rubric used to evaluate the work is not appropriate, you may request a re-mark. For a re-mark to succeed, you must clearly and concisely express the marking error that you believe occurred. To request a re-mark, use the form for the assignment on MarkUs. Requests must be submitted within *1 week* of the marks being returned. Remarking may increase the original grade, leave it as is, *or possibly decrease* the original grade.

If there was a problem with your submission or your code did not compile, you may request a remark. If the remark request is accepted, there will be a 20% penalty applied.

Academic Integrity:

All of the work you submit must be done by you and your work must not be submitted by someone else. Plagiarism is academic fraud and is taken very seriously. The department uses software that compares programs for evidence of similar code. Please refer to the UofT [Academic Integrity website](https://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/) (<https://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/>) and read the [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019) (<https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019>). Here are a few guidelines to help you avoid plagiarism:

Never look at another student's or group's assignment solution or idea for a solution, whether it is on paper or on the computer screen, and don't allow your solution to be viewed by or come into the possession of another student. Maintain absolute control of your work, including notes and partial solutions, at all times.

We encourage you to discuss course concepts and to study for exams with other students, but any work that is submitted should be your own. The easiest way to avoid plagiarism is to only show work that is in preparation for submission, or submitted work, to a TA or instructor.

Important: An academic offence may significantly slow your progress through your degree. It is better to submit a partially completed assignment and receive a low mark than to face an academic offence on your record.

Important: Do not look for assignment solutions online. Places like public Github repositories may contain code that may be useful in your assignments. Using someone else's code and ideas without

attribution, even if making some changes, is considered plagiarism. Keep in mind that our plagiarism detection software can detect such cases.

Important: The entire code must be written by yourself. Submitting code you find elsewhere or AI generated code (e.g., ChatGPT, Github Co-pilot) is strictly forbidden and any violation will be persecuted with the fullest extent of the regulation.

Accessibility Needs:

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom, or course materials, please contact [Accessibility Services \(https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/accessibility-services/\)](https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/accessibility-services/) as soon as possible via email ([accessibility.services@utoronto.ca \(mailto:accessibility.services@utoronto.ca\)](mailto:accessibility.services@utoronto.ca)) or phone ([416-978-8060 \(tel:416-978-8060\)](tel:416-978-8060)).