Master Course Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: https://catalog.uvu.edu/

Semester: Spring
Year: 2025
Course Prefix: CS
Course and Section #: 3060-002
Course Title: Operating Systems Theory
Credits: 3

Course Description

Introduces the Unix operating system. Presents the underlying theory and concepts of an operating system, and covers the following topics in depth: device management, processes, threads, synchronization, scheduling, deadlocks, memory management, virtual memory, and file systems. Provides practical experience in writing programs that use standard Unix system calls to interface directly with the operating system.
Lab access fee of $45 for computers applies

Course Attributes

This course has the following attributes:
☐ General Education Requirements
☐ Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
☐ Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
☒ Discipline Core Requirements in Program
☐ Elective Core Requirements in Program
☐ Open Elective
Other: *Click here to enter text.*

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Alexis Hovorka

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate a working knowledge of a Unix based operating system.
2. Demonstrate a working knowledge of the standard Unix programming environment.
3. Describe the basic functions of an operating system.
4. Describe the basic components of an operating system, and explain what each of these components does.
5. Explain the basic algorithms for scheduling, memory management, device management, file management, and process management.
6. Write reasonably complex programs on a Unix-based operating system correctly using Unix system calls to access operating system functions.

Course Materials and Texts

- Textbook: *Operating Systems: Three Easy Pieces* (https://pages.cs.wisc.edu/~remzi/OSTEP/)
- A computer that can run the Docker Desktop or a Virtual Machine environment (Windows/Mac/Linux)

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

- Homework: Programming assignments every two weeks written in the C programming language related to topics under study (50% of overall grade)
- Discussions: Weekly discussion posts related to topics under study. (5% of overall grade)
- Quizzes: Weekly quizzes related to topics under study. (20% of overall grade)
- Final Exam: A comprehensive exam that covers all course topics. (25% of overall grade)

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

All required readings use chapters from the course text that align with the lectures below.

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

This schedule may be adjusted throughout the semester to fit the pace of in-class discussions, so check Canvas regularly for the most up to date information.

Week	Book Sections	Description	Assignments
1	Syllabus, Chapter 2	Class Introduction, Ubuntu, Docker, SSH, Git and GitHub, the C Programming Language	
2	Chapters 4-6	Introduction to Operating Systems, Processes	Assignment 1 Due
3	Chapters 7-10	Scheduling	
4	Chapters 13-17	Memory Management	Assignment 2 Due
5	Chapters 18-23	Virtual Memory	
6	Chapters 26-28	Threads	Assignment 3 Due
7	Chapters 29-31	Locking	
8	Chapters 32-33	Concurrency	Assignment 4 Due
9	Chapters 36-38	Storage Devices	
10		Spring Break	
11	Chapters 39-42	Filesystems	Assignment 5 Due
12	Chapters 43-45	Filesystem Integrity	
13	Chapters 48-50	Distributed Storage	Assignment 6 Due
14	Chapters 53-55	Security	

15	Chapters 56-57	Cryptography	Assignment 7 Due
16		Final Exam Review, Final Exam	

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI
ChatGPT (and similar Tools) in This Course: Use ChatGPT as a learning assistant, not as a crutch. If you use it, cite it at the top of your code. **You** are responsible to make sure that any code or content does what it is supposed to do and says what you want it to say. Don't accept anything it generates at face value without checking it critically. These days potential employers will expect you to know how to use tools like ChatGPT to generate code, so it is a skill we need to teach you. If it helps you learn some things faster, GREAT because we can spend class time on more interesting topics. Just remember: If you REALLY want to be good, work for it.

Suggestions for using it responsibly:

- If you don't have a clue, use AI to get a clue.
- If you don't understand a concept, ask AI for an explanation with examples.
- If some code isn't working, ask AI for help on that snippet, including broken APIs.
- If you want help on improving your code, ask AI how you might improve some function or section of your code.
- Tell AI to guide you toward a solution rather than giving you a solution immediately.
- If you use AI, **remember to note you've used it** in your module docstrings and in your project submission document.
- If you feel like you need smaller exercises or practice with some concept before working on some part of your project, use AI to generate exercises for you.
- Whatever the AI generates, don't turn in code you could not, would not, or should not have written. That will be penalized heavily. The instructor is the judge of that.

We have no illusions. Every assignment you do in this class, an AI can already generate an answer for you. But we're not training the AI—we are training and assessing you.

Using Remote Testing Software
☒ This course does not use remote testing software.

☐ This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

Required University Syllabus Statements

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities

Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at DHHservices@uvu.edu

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

Academic Integrity

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their rights and responsibilities. In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in UVU Policy 541: *Student Code of Conduct*.

Equity and Title IX

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – TitleIX@uvu.edu – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

Religious Accommodation

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.

To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu. If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed

by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a specially dedicated space for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.