CSI 450 – Operating Systems – Fall 2009

Instructor: Dr. Shaun D. Ramsey   **Email:** shaun.ramsey@gmail.com
Office: Dunning Decker N102   **Office Hours:** M 12:20-1:30, TR 12-1
Phone: (410) 810-7485   **Class meetings:** TR 1-2:15
Primary Text: Operating System Concepts by Silberschatz
Web: http://shaunramsey.com

Overview and Topics: This course is a study in how to build an appropriate operating system. The basics of systems programming with forks and threads introduces users to how operating systems are constructed in the modern age. Memory layout, synchronization, deadlock, and more are discussed to introduce the user to all the issues necessary in the creation and maintenance of an operating system.

Advising and Prerequisites: CSI 250 is a prerequisite for this course. It is important to understand the basics of number conversions and the like to properly tackle any operating systems course.

Exams: Tentatively, exams will be held on 9/29, 10/27, and 11/17. The final exam will be administered during its scheduled slot during final exam week. An absence on the day of an exam will result in a grade of a 0. Except in cases of extreme emergency, exams must be taken on the day the exam is administered. Before a make-up test is scheduled, documentation of the extreme emergency must be given. Make-up exams for tests missed due to an extreme emergency will be arranged for a time that is mutually convenient for the student and Dr. Ramsey.

Attendance: Students who attend class regularly statistically have better grades than those who do not. It is thus expected that you attend class. This also is a small attempt at professional development and to prepare you for work. In the work force, your attendance is necessary to maintain your employment. My attendance policy is constructed to enforce this. You may miss one week worth of class meetings at no penalty (3 classes in a MWF course or 2 classes in a TuTh course). Each class meeting that is missed after this will result in a 10% reduction in grade. I will not attempt to make a distinction between excused and unexcused absences. It is your responsibility to obtain assigned homework, announcements and class notes from

your fellow students. Talk to classmates for class notes. It is important that you attend every class, as there is certainly a correlation between grades and attendance. As a matter of courtesy, students are expected to inform Dr. Ramsey of the reason for any absence.

Grading: Your grade consists of three exams, one final exam, and assignments. You must pass each exam and have a passing average on assignments to pass the course. Each exam is worth 20% of your final grade. Coursework/quizzes/homework comprises the last 20% of your final grade. Attendance can have an affect on your final grade (see below).

Assignments and Programming: Assignments largely consist of programs completed outside of class, but may include other assigned tasks inside and outside of class. For example, quizzes, oral presentations during class and specific written assignments outside of class. Late homework will receive half credit until the solution is given (at which time it is worth no credit). Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the assigned due date.

Programming assignments are time stamped by the server we will be using, so be sure not to alter your program after the hand-in time. Remember to make sure that your program compiles and executes.

Academic Honesty: You are always subject to the Honor Code of Washington College. You may discuss concepts with others, but work is to be done on your own (unless otherwise designated). If you are unsure if something is considered *cheating*, simply ask. As always, if you have questions, feel free to email or stop by my office.

SHARING CODE OR GIVING CODE IN ANY WAY IS CHEATING! You may look at someone else's code and point out an error, but you may not use someone else's code as a guideline for what you should be writing. Your homework programs are not research papers. They are exploration exercises designed to help connect logical pieces together in your own brain. If you do not do it yourself, you will not learn the work. WRITE YOUR OWN CODE!

Accommodations: If you have a special accommodation/need that has been reported to the college, please let me know discretely during the first week, so that I can work to meet your accommodation.