Course Description

Computer hardware organization: arithmetic and logical operations; combinational and sequential logic; machine representation of numbers, characters, and instructions; addressing techniques; microprogramming; reduced instruction set computers. Symbolic assembly language and interrupts and input/output organization are also covered. Credit cannot be applied to any graduate degree in IT&E or the B.S. degree in Computer Science. **Prerequisite:** Undergraduate courses or equivalent knowledge in structured programming in a high-level language.

Email

Email is the recommended mode of communications. Answers to technical questions may be redistributed to other students via E-mail or the course web site. You are expected to have a **GMU E-mail address** for this course. Check the course web site regularly for updates and announcements as applicable. Preface all email message subject lines with “INFS515: ”

**DO NOT INCLUDE STUDENT ID ON HOMEWORK SUBMISSIONS OR EMAIL MESSAGES!**

Attendance

Not taken for credit at lecture, but you are responsible for all material presented in class/lab whether or not it is in the published notes. Therefore, consistent and weekly attendance is strongly recommended in order to achieve the highest course grade. If you are late for class, please enter the class quietly and sit by the entrance to minimize the disturbance to the rest of the class. An attendance sign-up sheet will be distributed sometime during the class. Please sign only your name.

Reading Assignments

Reading assignments are posted on the course web site and/or given in class. Students are expected to have read the assigned material **before** the corresponding lecture in which the material will be discussed. Reference the Exam and Quiz Format section.

Lectures

**Recording of lectures with any type of electronic or electro-mechanical recording device is not permitted.**

Some class sessions will be part lecture and part exercises (second half of session) while others are all lecture based.

Lecture sessions may include current developments (i.e., events) in INFS in the area of computer system organization and architecture.
Lecture Slides

The lecture slides are not available for students due to restrictions by the publisher. Refer to student lecture companion. **Note:** Instructor slides shown in class contain corrections to those found in the companion.

Some lecture material will be from external sources (not contained in the class slides).

Course information posted on the course web site will be in PDF format. Free PDF file reader (Version 7) can be downloaded from here [http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html](http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html).

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### Homework Assignments

Homework assignments (if assigned) are posted on the course web site and/or given in class.

Homework assignments are due **BEFORE** the end of class (i.e., lecture) on the due date. **Only if you are not able to submit your homework assignment in class,** you may submit via email before the due date/time to the TA with a courtesy copy to the instructor. The student is responsible for ensuring that email submitted homework is received before the due date/time. Thus, the student needs to account for possible delivery delays of email systems.

Show intermediate work as appropriate when submitting homework assignment answers.

Homework assignments submitted **AFTER** the assignment is due will not be accepted.

The lowest single homework score will be dropped. Homework assignments are graded for correctness.

Homework assignments should be neatly typed. **Readable handwritten assignments are acceptable.**

The instructor may discard unclaimed graded assignments after two weeks past the original due date. **All unclaimed assignments will be discarded after the final exam.**

Since the difficulty of each non-textbook homework assignment may not uniform, the more difficult homework assignments will carry more weight than the less difficult non-textbook homework assignments.

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### Class Demonstrations & Exercises

Throughout the semester, live in-classroom demonstrations & exercises of various computer organizations and architectures may be shown. There will be questions on the quizzes/exams about these demonstrations & exercises.

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### Text Books


Be sure to check the textbook web site on a regular basis for errata sheet updates, [http://computerscience.jbpub.com/ecoa/2e/](http://computerscience.jbpub.com/ecoa/2e/).
Exam Policy

Students who arrive more than 15 minutes late for any exam or quiz will not be permitted to take the exam/quiz and will automatically receive a grade of zero for that exam/quiz.

Makeup exams are very rarely given. Requests for a delayed Final Exam due to multiple tests (>2) in one day will ONLY be considered if proper forms are completed and in the instructor's hands on or before the mid-term grading period ends.

(excerpts) From the 2000-2001 University Catalog:

A student who misses an exam without an excuse may have the course grade lowered.

Students must not be required to submit examinations before the date of the regularly scheduled examination for a course. Final reexaminations are not permitted.

Absence from final examinations will not be excused except for sickness on the day of the examination or for other cause approved by the student's academic dean/director.

From the Schedule of Classes:

Students who have more than one examination scheduled at the same time or more than two examinations scheduled on the same day should consult their academic dean to request rescheduling.

There will be only one makeup final exam for those students who have received authorization from the instructor to take the final exam at the other than the normally scheduled time. This makeup exam will be given the day following the regularly scheduled final exam at the same time or as announced by the instructor.

Since the College of Arts and Sciences does not have a specific procedure, those students in CAS who are eligible to take the final exam at the makeup exam time should follow the School of IT&E procedures and fill out the appropriate forms and return them to the instructor on or before mid-term grading period ends. No requests for any reason will be accepted after that date.

Exam & Quiz Formats

All exams and quizzes are closed book and notes, unless otherwise specified. There will be unannounced quizzes. The lowest single quiz score will be dropped.

Exams and quizzes are both essay and problem solving based.

There are no make-ups for missed quizzes.

The final exam will be comprehensive.

Quizzes and exams will cover all material discussed through the prior class (including the current reading assignment) and will emphasize material covered during class lectures.

Grading Policy

Homework = 20%  Quizzes = 20%  Mid-Term Exam = 25%  Final Exam = 35%

The final course grade is based on an absolute standard of the weighted sum of all grades (absolutely NO grades will be dropped nor a curve applied to the grades).

Plus/Minus grades will be used as indicated:

A+: 100-97  A: 96-93  A-: 92-90  B+: 89-85  B: 84-80  Cs: 79-60  Fs: <60
Honor Code

You are encouraged to collaborate with other students for general studying. Exams are closed book, closed notes, and no use of calculators. The normal Honor Code applies to all exam, quizzes, lab assignments and term papers/presentations.

Plagiarism

You must clearly indicate any and all instances when your work includes, is based on, or is derived from the work of others. Just be sure to include explicit in-line citations where applicable. Any violations are sufficient to receive a failing grade.

Schedule

The list of chapters and topics to be covered on a weekly basis are on schedule, which is posted on the course web site and/or given in class. The schedule of topics discussed and assignments is subject to change during the progression of the semester.

Students with Disabilities

If you need special assistance, please inform the instructor soon as possible so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Course Web Site

Suggest that students visit the course web site often to check for updates. Also, make local copies of information from the web site and the WWW in case the web site is unavailable for an extended period of time.

The course web site contains the most current course information.

Computer Labs

There are several Computer Labs available for general use by IT&E students, which are located on the Fairfax campus. For more information go to the web site at http://ite.gmu.edu/labs. One such lab is in ST2 Room 137.

Cell Phone & Electronic Device Policy

Turn off cell phones and personal communication devices ringers (place in silent mode).