

# Operating Systems

MET CS 575

Course Format On-Campus  
Tuesday 6:00 PM – 8:45 PM  
Spring 2022

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Office hours: after class

## Course Description

Overview of operating system characteristics, design objectives, and structures. Topics include concurrent processes, coordination of asynchronous events, file systems, resource sharing, memory management, security, scheduling, and deadlock problems. 4 credits. Prerequisites: MET CS 472 and (MET CS 231 or MET CS 232). Or instructor's consent.

## Books

Operating System Concepts 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, Silberschatz, Galvin, and Gagne – Wiley.  
The book is available from Barnes & Noble and other retailers.

## Courseware

Blackboard website: <https://learn.bu.edu/>

## Learning Outcomes

1. Explain the fundamental concepts of operating systems, including OS structures, virtualization, address space, kernel mode, interrupt, access control, etc.
2. Explain the basic components in a computer system, an operating system, and how they interact with each other in a system.
3. Describe the kernel implementation of various OS components and functions, such as kernel mode, process/thread operations, context switch, page table, address translation, message passing, file systems, etc.
4. Compare the multi-process and multi-thread implementation of an application.
5. Evaluate and Compare different CPU scheduling algorithms.
6. Analyze the synchronization problems, identify the race condition, and properly implement synchronization in multiple processes or multi-thread applications.
7. Analyze the effect of virtual memory management on program performance.
8. Design or construct OS components such as CPU scheduler, memory management, file systems, etc.
9. Apply the OS concepts to real-world OSes such as Windows and Linux.
10. Develop hands-on experience in Linux programming.
11. Be introduced to the Linux kernel source code and simple kernel-level programming.
12. Explain the security principles and security issues in the OS design.
13. Develop system-thinking skills.

## Learning Outcomes Assessment

- Assignments: LO1-LO12
- Research Project: LO1-LO13
- Quizzes and Exams: LO1-LO8
- Final Exam: LO1-LO12

## Academic Year 2021-2022 COVID-19 Policies

It is required of all students to follow ALL COVID-19 policies and protocols compiled by the university.

## Class Policies

- 1) Attendance Policy** – Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and be punctual. Active student participation and attendance are an essential part of the learning experience and will factor into course grade. There are **NO EXCUSED ABSENCES** under this policy. All absences are counted, regardless of the reason for the absence. You are responsible for all announcements and materials discussed in class.
- 2) Assignments Format** – Assignments are typically in Operating Systems programming language C, although there may be a few C++ and Java in coursework. All programming assignments are to be completed using VirtualBox virtualization software. We will use the latest LTS version of Ubuntu Linux Virtual Machine that is available at the start.
- 3) Assignments Late Policy** – **NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS** – Assignments typically require systems programming which demands time and effort on design, implementation, and debugging, so make sure to plan accordingly. All assignments will be due at the start of class on the due date. If a compelling reason is provided, a late assignment may be accepted up to three days late with a 10% per day reduction, accumulative. Any assignments submitted after the due date will be zero credit.
- 4) Assignments Submission Policy** – **NO EMAIL SUBMISSIONS** – Assignments shall be submitted to the Blackboard. Check the Blackboard transactions to ensure your submission was correct and has been successful. Failure to check for successful submission or submission of wrong files will result in zero credit. All submissions are a single attempt.
- 5) Research Project** – **NO LATE RESEARCH PROJECT** – The research project may consist of several deliverables. The final deliverable is due at the start of the presentation class. Any parts of the research project submitted after the due date will be zero credit.
- 6) Quizzes and Exams** – ALL assessments are scheduled ahead of time and **may not be taken on another day**. Any quizzes or exams not taken on their designated date will be zero credit. No make-up quizzes and exams will be given unless a compelling and verifiable reason is given in advance. The instructor reserves all the right for its consideration. The date for the Final Exam will be determined by the Registrar's office.

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- 7) **Grading** – Grades are calculated per performance of completed coursework requirements. To improve your grade, I encourage you to read the “Strategies for Learning” section following the course policies. If a student wishes to dispute a grade, may do so within 48 hours of the instructor providing the grade on the Blackboard. After the Final Exam, there will be No extra credit, No resubmission, No regrading to improve the final grade. The final letter grade is calculated using industry-standard software with high precisions and accuracy, so rounding up the final grade is rare.
- 8) **Redo, Resubmission, Bonus/Make-up work, Extensions** – NONE GIVEN. There will be No additional work after the Final Exam to improve your grade, as this arrangement by fairness has to be extended to the rest of the class (an impossible situation).
- 9) **Backup** – It is the student’s responsibility to keep secure backups of all coursework. No credits and No extensions will be given for lost files due to computer failure or theft.
- 10) **Incomplete and withdrawal** – There will be No incomplete in this class except for reasons of dire illness near the end of the semester. The student must have been actively attended and participated in class and completed the majority of coursework throughout the semester with good standing. It is the student’s responsibility to observe the university’s guidelines, policies, and file an official withdrawal to avoid earning a failing grade.
- 11) **Classroom Expectations** – Please respect your classmates by turning off your phone or other electronic devices before class begins, and do not use them during class. I encourage you to participate in class discussions and ask questions.
- 12) **Academic Conduct Code** – The following is a message from the Dean’s office:  
 “Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated in any Metropolitan College course. They will result in no credit for the assignment or examination and may lead to disciplinary actions. Please take the time to review the Student Academic Conduct Code: [http://www.bu.edu/met/metropolitan\\_college\\_people/student/resources/conduct/code.html](http://www.bu.edu/met/metropolitan_college_people/student/resources/conduct/code.html). This should not be understood as a discouragement for discussing the material or your particular approach to a problem with other students in the class. On the contrary – you should share your thoughts, questions, and solutions. Naturally, if you choose to work in a group, you will be expected to come up with more than one and highly original solution rather than the same mistakes.”

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### Course Objectives

To enable the students to gain knowledge of:

- Understand the fundamental concepts of operating systems, including OS structures, processes/threads management, synchronization, deadlocks, memory management, filesystems, disk, I/O, protection and security.
- Develop hands-on experience in Linux programming.
- Be introduced to the Linux kernel source code and simple kernel-level programming.

### Course Requirements

- Class participation
- Reading and studying
- Assignments
- Research project and presentation
- Quizzes and Exams
- Additional reading materials

### Strategies for Learning

We will cover many materials that require critical thinking and practice to master. The following are strategies for in-depth learning of the materials:

- Attend class, participate in class discussions, and take notes.
- Read the textbook and any additional materials covered in class.
- Explore online resources, e.g., articles, tutorials, source code, documentation, etc.
- Form a study group.
- The more time and effort you expend, the more benefits you will receive.

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### Grading Criteria

The grade that a student receives in this class will be based on class attendance and participation, assignments, a research project, quizzes, and a final exam. The grade breakdown is shown below.

- 5% on Attendance and Participation
- 20% on Assignments
- 12% on Research Project
- 15% on Quiz 1
- 15% on Quiz 2
- 33% on the Final Exam

Letter grade/numerical grade conversion is shown below (bar over 0 and 9 means decimal repeats to high precision):

A (95. $\bar{0}$  – 100)      A- (90. $\bar{0}$  – 94. $\bar{9}$ )  
B+ (85. $\bar{0}$  – 89. $\bar{9}$ )    B (80. $\bar{0}$  – 84. $\bar{9}$ )    B- (77. $\bar{0}$  – 79. $\bar{9}$ )  
C+ (74. $\bar{0}$  – 76. $\bar{9}$ )    C (70. $\bar{0}$  – 73. $\bar{9}$ )    C- (65. $\bar{0}$  – 69. $\bar{9}$ )  
D (60. $\bar{0}$  – 64. $\bar{9}$ )    F (0. $\bar{0}$  – 59. $\bar{9}$ )

### Amendment

The instructor reserves the right to amend the course syllabus during the term. Any changes made to the syllabus will be posted on the Blackboard.

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## Class Meetings, Lectures & Assignments:

Lectures, Readings, and Assignments are subject to change and will be announced in class and/or on Blackboard as applicable within a reasonable time frame.

Date	Topic	Readings Due	Assignments Due
January 25	Introduction	Chapter 1	
February 1	Operating-System Structures	Chapter 2	
February 8	Processes	Chapter 3	
February 15	Threads	Chapter 4	Assignment 1 Due
February 22	Substitute Monday schedule of classes		
March 1	Quiz 1		<b>Quiz 1 (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4)</b>
March 5-13	Spring recess		
March 15	CPU Scheduling	Chapter 5	Assignment 2 Due
March 22	Synchronization Deadlocks	Chapters 6-8	
March 29	Main Memory	Chapter 9	Assignment 3 Due
April 5	Quiz 2		<b>Quiz 2 (Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)</b>
April 12	Virtual Memory Mass-Storage Structure	Chapters 10, 11	
April 19	I/O Systems Filesystems	Chapters 12-15	Assignment 4 Due
April 26	Security & Protection	Chapters 16, 17	
May 3	Research Project Discussion and Presentations		Research Project Due Submit by 6 PM
May 10 'Tentative'	Final Exam		<b>All covered materials</b>