CS 231, Fall Y2K
Computer Architecture and Assembly Language Programming I

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Office: Social Science 404
Office Hours: MWF 9:00 – 10:00 am
By appointment

Classes: MWF 8:10 – 9:00 am
Room: Social Science 356
Final: Wednesday, December 20, 8:00 – 10:00 am
TA: TBA
Prerequisites: CS132, or consent of instructor
Homepage: http://www.cs.umt.edu/CS/COURSES/CS231

Important Dates:
September 18 - Graduation Applications for Spring 2001
September 25 - Last day to drop/add by DialBear/CyberBear
October 16 - Drop/Adds (no $$ back) – Fall 2000
October 16 - Last day to change grade option – Fall 2000
November 6 - Registration for Spring 2001
November 7 - Election Day (NO CLASS)
November 22-24 – Thanksgiving Vacation (NO CLASSES)
December 8 - Last day to withdraw – Fall 2000
December 15 - Last day to drop with petition – Fall 2000

Class Objectives
- Learn system functional partition and interfaces
  - Processor, memory, I/O and the software interface
- Understand instruction formats
- Understand digital logic
- Prepare for future software and hardware classes
  - Stimulate your intellectual interest
Grading Policy:

Homework: 50%
Midterms (2): 10% + 15%
Final: 25%

Grading
Your grade will be based on how well you do with respect to the best student in class.
The graded homeworks will typically be returned with a solution set one week after
submission. Your worst homework grade will be dropped from the final accounting. Late
homework will be accepted, but it will be marked down 20% for each day it is late.
Homework turned in after 5pm is considered to be the same as turning it in prior to 5pm
the next day. Any exceptions to the late rule must be made prior to when the homework is
due and the excuse needs to be a good one – just too busy won’t cut it.

If you can’t make the midterm or the final, you must make arrangements with me prior to
missing the exam. Make up exams will be written and oral and they tend to be more
difficult than the original version. If you miss an exam without prior notification then you
will need appropriate documentation (physician, police, ...) to support the absence as
valid.

Collaboration on homework with your classmates is encouraged, but unless the
homework is specifically set up as a team project then you are responsible for personally
writing and understanding the solutions. The idea is to get the background any way you
want, but once you have the background you have to provide answers or solutions on
your own. Collaboration on exams is not permitted – it is called cheating. The University
has strict and severe penalties for such behavior. The point of exam is to see how much
you know on your own.

Appealing the grades on exams and homeworks must be done within two days of
receiving the graded work. Beware – mistakes in grading do happen, and you are
encouraged to help us correct any such mistakes, but realize that mistakes sometimes will
be in your favor. It may be the case that under an appeal your grade could actually be
lowered if the latter type of mistake is discovered. Perpetual whiners have a tendency to
find themselves in the latter category. It’s simple courtesy. We will treat you as fairly as
we know how and expect you to do the same in return.

Attendance
Attendance is NOT mandatory. Lots of you have different backgrounds and some may
feel that they already know the material that we will be covering, so it does not bother me
if you don’t show up for class. You have to make sure that you turn your homework on
time and show up for the midterms and the final – if you can do well even without
coming to class that’s fine with me. However, missing a class is no excuse for turning in
your homework late – it is your responsibility to get the questions and find out the due
dates. This all said, it is my opinion that the lectures can help you in reducing your study
time outside class, especially if you do the reading and you come ready.
Course Material
Most of the course materials will be online. This also includes this syllabus, which will be updated if and when anything changes. All of the lecture slides will be there as well. Feel free to use them to reduce the note-taking burden. I can’t guarantee when they will be available since from time to time I get infected with a massive procrastination or massive over-commitment attack, but they will typically be available one day before the class. Copies of other materials will be available in the CS office – so come by to get a copy if somehow you missed it.

Book Coverage
Chapter 1
  History
  Computer Components
Chapter 3
  Interconnections
  System Buses
Chapter 4
  Main Memory
  Cache
Chapter 5
  Disk, RAID
  Optical Memory
Chapter 6
  I/O
Chapter 7
  Introduction to Operating Systems
  Scheduling, Memory Management
Appendix A
  Digital Logic
  Gates and Circuits
Chapter 9
  Instruction Sets
  Assembly Language
Chapter 10
  Instruction Addressing Modes
Chapter 11
  CPU Organization
  Instruction Cycle and Pipelining
Chapter 12
  RISC
Chapter 13
  Superscalars
  Optimization