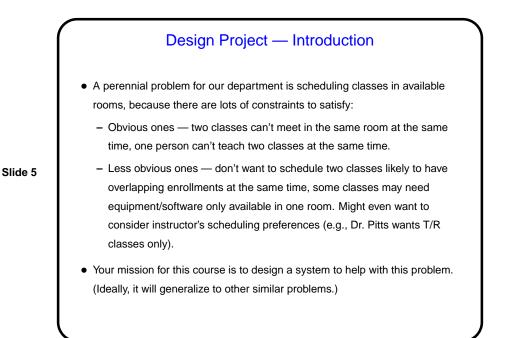


Why Are Design Skills Important?
Large (i.e., "interesting"?) programming projects more or less require good design to have much hope of succeeding.
Even if you don't plan to program for a living, the ability to analyze a problem and think about how it could be solved using computer systems is a valuable skill. We think this kind of analysis and design work is relatively difficult to "outsource".
Hence this course. You'll work in groups of four to five students (group assignments listed in the project description), and each group will design a solution to a semi-real-world problem ...



Design Project — Requirements and Constraints

 You have some flexibility in deciding exactly what functionality to provide that's part of the design problem. Real-world problems usually have a "customer", and part of the design problem is figuring out what he/she wants. I'll play that role in this project.

- You also have the following constraints:
 - Your solution should be as cross-platform and portable as possible i.e., users should not be constrained to a particular platform.
 - Your solution should not require spending money e.g., if you use existing products/programs, they must be public-domain / free.

