Slide 1

Administrivia

- One purpose of the syllabus is to spell out policies (next slides).
- Most information will be on the Web, on either my home page (office hours) or the course Web site (next slide).

  A request: If you spot something wrong with course material on the Web, please let me know!

Slide 2

Course Web Site

- "Course Web site" is meant to point you to pretty much all information for the course — readings, assignments, etc.
- You can find it via TLearn, or via the link from my home page (findable from the department's Web site, `http://www.cs.trinity.edu` or (probably?) by doing a Web search on my name).

Slide 3

Course FAQ

- "What will my grade be based on?" (See syllabus.)
- "What happens if I can't turn in work on time, or I miss a class?" (See syllabus.)
- "What's your policy on collaboration?" (See syllabus.)

Slide 4

Course FAQ, Continued

- "When is the next homework due?" (See "Lecture topics and assignments" page. Homeworks will be assigned at least a week before the due date.)
- "When are your office hours?" (See my home page.)

  Note that part of my job is to answer your questions outside class, so if you need help, please ask! in person or by e-mail.

Slide 5

Course FAQ, Continued

- "Do I need to buy a book?" (See syllabus.)

  Short answer: No, though you might want to.

Slide 6

Course FAQ, Continued

- "What computer(s) can I use to do homework?"

  Easiest option may be department's Linux lab machines. There are others.

  You should have physical access via your TigerCard (not today but soon) to classrooms and labs containing such machines any time the building is open. You should also be able to log in remotely to any that are booted into Linux, or to a cluster of Linux-only machines in ITS's server room (names `diasnn`, where `nn` ranges from 01 to 05).

Slide 7

A Little About Me

- Short version of biography: Undergrad degrees from UT Austin, math and Plan II. More than ten years in what we now call IT. Back to school for master's and PhD in computer science. Two years as a postdoc, then at Trinity since Fall 1999.
- I teach a variety of courses, but currently focusing more on courses "close to the machine". My research area (sadly neglected for some years) is parallel computing.
- (What do I do for fun? well . . .)

Slide 8

What I Hope You Will Get From This Class

- More things in your "bag of tricks" — shell features, shell scripts, makefiles, a text editor, etc., etc.,

  (Most of what we talk about will be applicable to all UNIX systems, not just Linux.)
- Practice in reading man pages and otherwise learning more.
- Exposure to a different operating-system / user-interface paradigm.

Slide 9

A Bit of Truth in Packaging (?)

- The focus of required work will be on old-style text-mode tools (as opposed to graphical stuff), and on user-mode work (as opposed to installation / administration).
- If what really excites you isn't something we focus on in class, though — I'm open to project ideas concerning topics we don't cover (much) in class.

Slide 10

Shameless Evangelism/Ranting

- "UNIX is obsolete — history goes back to 1969!"

  You can fix a lot of bugs in almost 50 years, and the odds are better that what you learn will still be useful years from now.
- "It's not user-friendly!"

  Old joke(?): Sure it is; it's just choosy about its friends. Designed by programmers for programmers — "expert-friendly" as opposed to "novice-friendly." Particularly good if you want to automate something.
- "Everyone knows GUIs are better!"

  For some things and some people, maybe so. But which is more expressive, pointing and gesturing or speech? (With apologies to former colleague Dr. Howland, whom I'm paraphrasing.)
- (You don't have to agree with me; listen and decide for yourself!)

Slide 11

The UNIX Philosophy

- As stated by one of its developers (Doug McIlroy):

  "Write programs that do one thing and do it well. Write programs to work together. Write programs to handle text streams, because that is a universal interface."

- There's more, but the emphasis is on (1) providing a set of lightweight tools that can be put together to do interesting things, and (2) providing choices to users (sometimes almost too many!).

Slide 12

Minute Essay

- (Most lectures will end with a "minute essay" — as a quick check on your understanding, a way for me to get some information, etc., and also to track attendance. Send me your answer by e-mail (no word-processor attachments please), and *please* put "minute essay" and the course in the Subject line.)
- What are your goals for this course? Are there specific topics you're interested in?
- Do you have access to a Linux or UNIX system other than the department's lab machines? (Yes, Mac OS X counts.)
- (Note reading assignments for next week.)