

Slide 1

Administrivia

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

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

Slide 2

Course FAQ

- "What will my grade be based on?" (See syllabus.)
- "When are the exams?" (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.)

Course FAQ, Continued

Slide 3

- “When is the next homework due?” (See “Lecture topics and assignments” page.)
 - “Do I have to use the lab computers for programming assignments?” (No, but that may be the easiest way to make sure they meet my criteria for full credit — I will test on one of these machines.)
 - “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 or phone.

Why Is This Course Required?

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- (In the new curriculum, it's not. But it was in the old!)
- “ACM says so” (i.e., curriculum recommendations include course on operating systems). Why? Well . . .
- To be a “computer scientist”, need to have a broad understanding of computer systems — and operating system is a key part of a computer system.
- Knowing something about how operating systems work helps you write efficient code.
- Many of our courses “demystify” parts of computer systems (e.g., PAD I/II and Computer Design); so does this course.
- It might even be fun . . .

Slide 5

What Is An Operating System?

- Definition by example?
- Definition(s) from operating systems textbooks?

Slide 6

What Is An Operating System? Continued

- Definition by example:
 - Recent: Windows, Linux, UNIX, BeOs, OS X (Mac), . . .
 - Older: MULTICS, VMS, MVS, VM/370, . . .
 - (Also special-purpose o/s's for special-purpose hardware — e.g., video-conferencing system.)
- Definition(s) from operating systems textbooks:
 - Something that provides “virtual machine” for application programs and users (“top down”).
 - Something that manages computer's resources (“bottom up”).
- Another view — key part of bridging gap between what hardware can do (not much, but very fast) and what users want.

Course Overview

- Brief history of operating systems.
- Review of what hardware can do, what operating system must/should do.
- Discussion of major functions of operating system — problem(s) to be solved, solutions:
 - Process management.
 - Memory management.
 - I/O management.
 - Filesystem management.

Focus on principles rather than details.

Slide 7

Minute Essay

- What are your goals for this course?
- What operating systems have you used/installed/experienced?
- Anything else you want to tell me? about the course, what you did this summer, ...?

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