

# CSCI 330, Fall 2006

Computer Architecture

[www.cburch.com/cs/330/](http://www.cburch.com/cs/330/)

**Instructor:** Dr Carl Burch  
**E-mail:** [burch@grendel.hendrix.edu](mailto:burch@grendel.hendrix.edu)  
**Telephone:** 450-1377 (office); 548-6135 (home)  
**Office:** M. C. Reynolds 310  
**Hours:** MW 9a-10a, R 2p-3p, F 1p-2p  
drop-ins, appointments always welcome

## Goal

To learn about the design concepts for modern computers, with a particular emphasis on modern CPU design and networking.

## Textbooks

Recommended: Patterson and Hennessy, *Computer Organization and Design*, third edition.

## Evaluation

There are a total of 1,000 points over the semester.

Class attendance/participation	100 pts
Assignments (five, 40 pts each)	200 pts
Projects (three, 60 pts each)	180 pts
Presentation	200 pts
Quizzes (two, 40 pts each)	80 pts
Midterm	100 pts
Final	140 pts
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000 pts</b>

Letter grades will come from the following scale.

A	900 or more	D	600 to 699
B	800 to 899	F	less than 600
C	700 to 799		

I reserve the right to make adjustments in the entire grading scheme or in particular cases.

The A grade is meant for outstanding performance; a B is more typical and represents solid preparation for future computer science courses, while a C represents marginally adequate preparation. I assign grades independent of any overall goal, but the average letter grade will likely be near 3.0. Bottom line: B isn't bad.

Note that I do not normally "curve" grades at the end of the course; instead, I monitor your progress and perform any "curves" as I grade tests. When I "curve" test scores, I add a fixed amount to all scores; as a result, a high test

score may end up being above 100%. I anticipate, but will not insist, that the median test score will be around 75%. Normally, scores in the non-test categories will be higher; the average class grade will likely be a B even though the average test grade is a C.

## Class attendance/participation

Several points are designated for "class participation." I will assign half of these points near the semester's middle, and the other half near the semester's end.

I do monitor your class attendance. If your attendance is excellent (missing one or fewer classes each half-semester), you will receive at least 60% of these attendance/participation points. If you feel your absence should be excused, please warn me about the absence a day in advance. Whether I excuse your absence is my call.

The remaining 40% of these points are for participation, including both questions during class and responses to questions during class. I may give more than full credit in unusual circumstances. Take this as an invitation: I value your active participation in class, and I expect you to show evidence of being fully tuned in during class sessions.

## Assignments and projects

We have several scheduled projects and assignments; the distinction is simply that projects are somewhat larger in scope. You are expected to complete each assignment on your own, although you are welcome to brainstorm with other students in a limited capacity. (See "Cheating" below.)

The assignments will be due at the beginning of class on the scheduled day. For each 24-hour period thereafter, I will deduct up to 10% of the points possible. Note that this means that if you show up a few minutes after class starts with your assignment, you can incur the full 24-hour late penalty. I will be happy to accept assignment solutions prior to their due date.

You will be assumed to be using the Advanced Computing Laboratory, MCRey 316. See [ozark.hendrix.edu/linux/policies.html](http://ozark.hendrix.edu/linux/policies.html) for policies regarding this laboratory.

## Presentation

You will perform some research on a processor and in late October/early November, you will present a lecture to the class on how it works. Details about which processor you will research and what the presentation will contain will be distributed in early October.

## Quizzes and tests

Tests are scheduled as listed in the schedule below. If you miss a test, you must receive advance permission from me to receive more than a 0. (Dire medical emergencies usually constitute an exception.) If you are excused from the test, I will either double your lowest quiz or exam score or administer a make-up, at my discretion. Let me know well in advance — 24 hours for exams and quizzes, and two weeks for the final. I would like to remind you that, when e-mail is impossible, telephones exist also. *Do not skip a test without my prior approval!*

Note that I may require you to document your reason for absence. Travel arrangements and work schedules are not adequate reasons to miss a test.

## Cheating and groupwork

You must properly attribute any work or ideas you use in assignments for this course which are quoted or derived from others. Plagiarism includes not only copying the ideas and the written and spoken words of others, but also copying or otherwise appropriating their computer files as well. Interfering with the work of others is also a serious academic offense. I will abide by the catalog's Academic Honesty policy in referring cases to the college's Committee on Academic Integrity.

Discussing or viewing others' solutions to assignments is officially out of bounds, as is discussing or showing your own solution to others. (In practice, I realize, you may want to help other students; this presents a problem only when you adapt any of what you see into your own solution.) A strong correlation between your solution and a classmate's solution constitutes evidence of cheating.

When I allow a problem to be completed with another student, you should submit a single solution to the assignment with both names on it.

## Office hours

Feel free to stop by my office any time you want to talk about something related to the class. I do have "office hours" listed above, but they are *not* intended to limit you. The office hours represent when I will try to be available in my office, but I'm equally available at all times that my office door is open. I'm also happy to arrange appointments.

If you're not in the building, feel free to telephone my office. And if I'm not in my office, you can send e-mail. But please try to contact me directly before e-mail: E-mail is much less efficient.

## Tentative schedule

The schedule below outlines the planned schedule for assignments and tests.

Fri 1 Sep	Assignment 1
4 Sep	<i>Labor Day</i>
Fri 8 Sep	Project 1
Fri 15 Sep	Assignment 2
Fri 22 Sep	<b>Quiz 1</b>
Fri 29 Sep	Project 2
Fri 6 Oct	<b>Midterm</b>
12–13 Oct	<i>Fall Break</i>
Fri 20 Oct	Assignment 3
Mon 23 Oct	Presentations start
Fri 3 Nov	Assignment 4
Fri 10 Nov	<b>Quiz 2</b>
Fri 17 Nov	Assignment 5
22–24 Nov	<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>
Fri 1 Dec	Project 3
Wed 13 Dec	<b>Final, 2:00p</b>

## Disabilities

It is the policy of Hendrix College to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Any student with a disability who needs accommodation, for example in arrangements for seating, examinations, note taking, or access to information on the Web, should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. In order to receive accommodations, students with disabilities are required to contact Counseling Services at 450-1448.