

Winter 2009

COSC 3P92 - Computer Architecture

Instructor: Brian Ross
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Objective: A survey of contemporary topics in computer architecture.

Text: *Structured Computer Organization (5e)*, A.S. Tanenbaum, Prentice-Hall, 2006.

Outline: Some topics to be studied may include:

- Basic principles
- Circuits, microprocessor chips
- Microprogramming
- Input/output
- Instruction sets
- RISC vs. CISC
- Parallel computers
- Memory
- Misc. selected topics

Evaluation:

Assignments (3):	15%
Seminar:	15%
Participation:	5%
Midterm:	20%
Final:	45%

- A grade of 40% must be obtained on the final to pass the course.
- In order for an assignment to be marked, a completed and signed cover page must be attached to the outside of the envelope containing the assignment.
- Late assignments are accepted up to 3 days after the deadline, with a 25% penalty. Assignments later than 3 days have a 100% penalty.
- Plagiarism will be harshly punished. For example, a minimum penalty may be – 100% on an assignment, or 0 F in the course.
- Please read the department's policy on medical notes on the COSC home page.

Remarks

- Supplementary material may be placed on the course web page or at the reserve reading desk in the library.
- Most of the assignments will be problems taken from the textbook.
- The seminar consists of a presentation on a topic in computer architecture of your choice. I will be verifying that topics are suitable and not duplicated. You will also submit an electronic file of your presentation (Powerpoint, PDF, HTML,...). It will be put on the web, for others in the class to access and read. Seminar topics are examinable!
- A seminar schedule and possible seminar topics will be maintained on the web.