Unit Outline: KXA254 Operating Systems

Semester 2, 2004

Sandy Bay Campus, Hobart
Newnham Campus, Launceston

Prerequisites
KXA151

Corequisites
None

Unit Weight
12.5% of one academic year

Unit Coordinator
Dr. Shuxiang Xu

Lecturing Staff
Sandy Bay Campus, Hobart: Mark Hepburn
Newnham Campus, Launceston: Dr. Shuxiang Xu

Scheduled Teaching Sessions
Lectures: 3 hr/wk
Tutorials: 1 hr/wk (from week 2)
The Unit Timetable can be accessed from the Study Resources section of the School website. (http://www.comp.utas.edu.au/app/studyresources.jsp).

Unit Website
The unit website is accessed from http://vista.utas.edu.au/. You will need to use your university email pop account username and password to log on to the WebCT system. Once authenticated by the system your personalised MyWebCT area will be displayed. It contains links to the websites that you have permission to access - including the website for this unit.

This unit is Web Supplemented. This means that the use of the Web is optional for this unit. The unit website contains unit information and resources.

If you are not able to access the unit website, please contact the University IT help desk:
Entrance Level, Morris Miller Library, Sandy Bay Campus;
Entrance Level, Launceston Campus Library, Newnham Campus.
Telephone: 6226 1818 and 1300 304 903.
The 1300 number is a local call from within Tas, with the exception of mobiles.
Email: servicedesk@utas.edu.au
Website: http://www.utas.edu.au/servicedesk/student/index.html

University Website
Information and Resources for 'Current Students' are available on the university website at: http://www.utas.edu.au/students/

Provider
School of Computing - Faculty of Science, Engineering, and Technology. http://www.comp.utas.edu.au

OVERVIEW

Introduction
In this unit the approach is based on theoretical issues and practical work. Lectures will review computer architecture, with an emphasis on new technologies and trends, cover the concepts of processes, mutual exclusion and deadlock, and discuss general algorithms for scheduling, memory management and I/O processing. Upon completion of this unit the student should be able to demonstrate a practical understanding of operating system architecture, and the functions of operating system components, explain the relationships between the operating system modules, and design and implement some operating system functions in commonly used operating systems environments.

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Articulate the basic principles and management of modern operating systems
2. Use a multiuser operating system to implement a broad range of system level tasks
3. Beware of security implications of multiuser, networked operating systems
4. Understand and analyse types and implications of new developments in operating systems

Unit Content
Operating Systems:
Need for an operating system
Components of an operating system
How do the components work

UNIX:
Unix file system
Unix shells and shell programming
Protection and Security:
File protection and access rights

Processes:
What is a process?
Process state
Threads
Interrupt handling, CPU context switching

CPU Scheduling, Interprocess Communication and Synchronization:
CPU scheduling algorithms
Producer/consumer implementation
Critical sections
Mutual exclusion and synchronization
Solutions: strict alternation, Peterson's solution
Deadlock

Memory Management:
Swapping
Virtual Memory
Paging, segmentation
Page replacement algorithms

File System:
Basics
RAID
Secondary storage management, disk head scheduling
File system design
File system performance, caching, free space management
Distributed file systems

Input/Output:
Device types
Device interface

For more information see the section titled 'Content' on the unit website.

Generic Skills
The university has defined a set of generic graduate attributes expected in its graduates. [http://www.admin.utas.edu.au/HANDBOOKS/UTASHANDBOOKS/RULES/POLGEN.html](http://www.admin.utas.edu.au/HANDBOOKS/UTASHANDBOOKS/RULES/POLGEN.html) Your course is designed to enable you to develop generic skills that are valued in, and expected of, graduates. These are skills that you will need to develop over time. Hence you are encouraged to look for opportunities, as you study each unit, to reflect on and improve these skills.

LEARNING AND TEACHING

Approach to Learning
You are expected to spend about 130 hrs studying in this unit - this includes attendance at scheduled teaching sessions. (For a 13 week semester this is, on average, 10 hr/wk.) This is the amount of study time that the 'typical' student will need to reach the level of competence and understanding required to fulfil the unit objectives.

You are expected to:

- attend all scheduled lectures and tutorials, unless otherwise notified by the unit coordinator
- prepare for, and actively participate in lectures and tutorials
- complete the assigned learning tasks
- review what has been learnt
- complete assessment items and submit them on time
- access and be familiar with the information and resources available on the unit website
- seek help from teaching staff if you have any questions or difficulties in studying this unit

You are encouraged to read the university's Code of Conduct for Teaching and Learning. Part A describes the 'Responsibility of the University to Students' and part B describes the 'Responsibilities of Students to the University'. [http://www.admin.utas.edu.au/HANDBOOKS/UTASHANDBOOKS/RULES/CTEA.html](http://www.admin.utas.edu.au/HANDBOOKS/UTASHANDBOOKS/RULES/CTEA.html)

Schedule
See the 'Schedule' section on the unit website.

Teaching and Support Staff

Teaching Staff

Unit Coordinator:
Dr. Shuxiang Xu
E-Mail: Shuxiang.Xu@utas.edu.au
Phone: (03) 6324 3416
Room: V173, Newnham Campus, Launceston

Lecturing Staff
Sandy Bay Campus, Hobart: Mark Hepburn
Newnham Campus, Launceston: Dr. Shuxiang Xu

School Help Desk
Contact the School Help Desk if you have any queries or problems with accessing, using, or printing from the computers in the School of Computing labs.

- **Hobart**: the Help Desk is located near the School's reception desk and is open in the morning from 9-11, and in the afternoon from 12-1 and 2-4, Monday-Friday. The phone number is 6226 2960.
- **Launceston**: the Help Desk is located near the entrance to the computing labs and is open in the morning from 10-12, and in the afternoon from 2-4.30, Monday-Thursday. On Fridays it is open from 10-12 in the morning and 2-4 in the afternoon. The phone number is 6324 3447.
- **Burnie**: the computer labs at the NWC are maintained by ITS. Please contact the University Help Desk for assistance. The 6 Macs are maintained by the School of Computing. If you have a query or problem that is specific to the School of Computing please phone the School of Computing Help Desk in Launceston.

**University Services and Support**

The University has staff available to assist you, such as the:

- Learning Development Advisor
- Student Counselor
- Careers Advisor
- Disability Officer

For more information and contact details see the Services and Support section on the University 'Current Students' web page. [http://www.utas.edu.au/students/](http://www.utas.edu.au/students/)

**Resources**

**Unit Website**

The unit website contains unit information and resources.

**Prescribed Text**

Students are advised to have good access to the following books (but not necessarily a personal copy):

Main text:

The following text is for tutorials and weeks 2-4 lectures:

**Readings**

Extra readings:


**Software**

The software that you will need to access the unit website and to study this unit, including general purpose software such as word processors, is provided on the computers in the School's computing labs. If you intend to use software on other computers please check that the versions are compatible.

**Computing Facilities**

The School has PC labs (Windows XP), Mac labs (Mac OS-X 10.3), and Networking labs at the Newnham and Sandy Bay campuses. It also maintains 6 Macs (Mac OS-X 10.3) at the NW Centre. Unix accounts can be accessed from all Macs and PCs.

If you have not used these facilities before please contact the School Help Desk to organise your account details. If you would like to access the facilities at the Newnham and Sandy Bay campuses after hours please contact the School Help Desk.

Please contact the School Help Desk if you have difficulty accessing or using these facilities.

**Use of Facilities**
Use of computing facilities provided by the School is subject to the School's Ethics Guidelines - [http://www.comp.utas.edu.au/app/ethics.jsp](http://www.comp.utas.edu.au/app/ethics.jsp). Copies of the guidelines are also available in all School labs. The School's facilities may only be used for study-related purposes, and may not be used for personal gain. The playing of games is strictly prohibited in all labs at all times. Before being granted access to the School's facilities, you will be required to sign a declaration that you have read and understand these guidelines, and that you will abide by them. Disciplinary action may be taken against students who violate the guidelines.

**Occupational Health and Safety**

The university is committed to providing a safe and secure teaching and learning environment. For more information see [http://www.admin.utas.edu.au/hr/ohs/pol_proc/](http://www.admin.utas.edu.au/hr/ohs/pol_proc/)

**ASSESSMENT**

**Assessment Items**

**Item 1**

*Title*: Assignment 1  
*Type*: In-Semester - individual assignment  
*Weighting*: 10%  
*Due*: 3pm, 6 September (Monday Week 8)

Unix shell programming.

**Item 2**

*Title*: Assignment 2  
*Type*: In-Semester - individual assignment  
*Weighting*: 15%  
*Due*: 3pm, 13 October (Wednesday Week 13)

(to be determined)

**Item 3**

*Title*: Practical exercises in tutorials  
*Type*: In-Semester - learning tasks  
*Weighting*: 5%  
*Due*: At the end of each tutorial session

(This is to make sure that students attend the tutorials)

**Item 4**

*Title*: 3 hr Examination  
*Type*: Formal Examination  
*Weighting*: 70%  
*Due*: University Examination Period

(The University formal examination)

See the 'Assessment' section in unit website for more detailed information about assessment items.

**In-Semester Assessment**

Unless specifically stated in the specification of the assessment item provided on the unit website, it is required that:

- work submitted by a student is the work of that student alone OR
- where the assessment item is to be completed by a group of students, the work submitted by the group of students is the work of that group of students alone.

Assignment submissions will not be considered for assessment unless they are 100% compatible with the School environment.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a form of cheating. It is taking and using someone else's thoughts, writings or inventions and representing them as your own, for example:

- using an author's words without putting them in quotation marks and citing the source;
- using an author's ideas without proper acknowledgment and citation; or
- copying another student's work.

If you have any doubts about how to refer to the work of others in your assignments, please consult...
your lecturer or tutor for relevant referencing guidelines, and the academic integrity resources on the web at http://www.utas.edu.au/tl/supporting/academicintegrity/index.html.

The intentional copying of someone else’s work as one’s own is a serious offence punishable by penalties that may range from a fine or deduction/cancellation of marks and, in the most serious of cases, to exclusion from a unit, a course or the University. Details of penalties that can be imposed are available in the Ordinance of Student Discipline – Part 3 Academic Misconduct, see http://www.utas.edu.au/policy/subject.html#students.

The University reserves the right to submit assignments to plagiarism detection software, and might then retain a copy of the assignment on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking.

**Referencing**

The university document on plagiarism contains information about referencing the work or ideas of others. (See http://www.utas.edu.au/plagiarism/) The preferred text referencing systems for the School is the Harvard system (also referred to as the author-date system).

**Submissions**

All in-semester assignment submissions (including electronic submissions) are to include an Assignment Cover Sheet which includes a statement confirming that the submission is your own work. If this undertaking is not signed, the assignment will not be marked. The Assignment Cover Sheet is available from the School Help Desk in Launceston and Hobart, and on the School's web site http://www.comp.utas.edu.au/app/studyresources.jsp.

**Extensions**

Assessment items will not be accepted after the due date except under the conditions stated in the school policy on late assessment, http://www.comp.utas.edu.au/app/late_assess.jsp.

**Formal Examination**

The formal examination is conducted by the University Registrar. The 'Current Students' section on the university website contains information about the conduct of, and timetable for, formal examinations.

**Final Grade**

Overall assessment will be based on the student's performance throughout the semester as well as in a formal examination. In order to achieve a pass (or better) result, a student must obtain:

1. at least 40% of the total mark for in-semester assessment items
2. at least 40% of the mark for the formal examination
3. at least 50% of the overall mark

Passing grades will be awarded based on the AVCC guidelines:

- PP at least 50% of the overall mark but less than 60%
- CR at least 60% of the overall mark but less than 70%
- DN at least 70% of the overall mark but less than 80%
- HD at least 80% of the overall mark

The maximum mark awarded to a student who fails the unit will be 44.

For more information, including other grades such as Supplementary and Terminating grades, see the School of Computing's guidelines for assessment - available at: http://www.comp.utas.edu.au/app/assess.jsp