

Operating Systems Design - Course Outline

NWEN 301: 2016 Trimester 1

This document sets out the workload and assessment requirements for NWEN 301. It also provides contact information for staff involved in the course. If the contents of this document are altered during the course, you will be advised of the change by an announcement in lectures and/or on the course web site. A printed copy of this document is held in the School Office.

Objectives

Operating Systems Design is part of the Engineering program at Victoria University of Wellington. BE graduates are expected to exhibit a number of graduate attributes at the completion of the program. This course contributes to the graduate attributes (GA) as indicated below. A full table of these attributes is available at [Graduate Attributes](#).

By the end of the course, students should be able to explain (GA [3\(a\)](#) & [3\(b\)](#)) (objectives 1-5) and experience (objectives 6-9):

1. *What an operating system is, what it does, and how it is designed and constructed,*
2. *the process concept, lifecycle and concurrency models central to OS design,*
3. *process scheduling, interprocess communication, process synchronization and deadlock handling,*
4. *memory management schemes, such as segmentation, paging and virtual memory, and*
5. *basic mechanisms for protection and system security.*
6. *experience in writing operating system code (GA [3\(d\)](#) & [3\(f\)](#)),*
7. *an appreciation of impact upon performance of design choices such as the selection of algorithms within an operating system kernel (GA [3\(b\)](#)),*
8. *a practical understanding of a large body of production quality code (GA [3\(f\)](#)), and,*
9. *familiarity with UNIX/Linux; C programming, APIs and System Calls (GA [3\(f\)](#)).*

Textbook

Modern Operating Systems: Global Edition (4e)

Andrew S Tanenbaum Herbert Bos

Edition 4

ISBN 9781292061429

ISBN 10 1292061421

Published 04/08/2014

Published by Pearson Higher Ed USA

Available at Vicbooks or online at: [Publisher](#)

Lectures, Tutorials, Laboratories, and Practical work

A [schedule](#) of lecture topics, readings, and assignment due dates is available online

Lectures for NWEN 301 are:

Tue, Thu	15:10 - 16:00	Hugh Mackenzie LT001
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Ad-hoc Tutorials for NWEN 301 (only when scheduled) are:

Fri	15:10 - 16:00	Hugh Mackenzie LT001
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Labs for NWEN 301 are (from Week 2 to Week 12):

Wed	10:00 - 11:00	CO242
Wed	13:00 - 14:00	CO242
Fri (no tutor)	16:00 - 17:00	CO242

NOTE: Wednesday lab sessions are supported by tutors. Friday lab sessions are NOT supported by tutors.

Assignments and Projects

Homework:

Four homework assignments will be set from the text book. These will help focus your learning and exam preparation and contribute 2.5% ea to your final mark.

All homework must be submitted online in PDF - work submitted in any other format will **NOT** be marked. Hand written and/or annotated work can be scanned to PDF for submission. Our goal is to return homework to you within 3 weeks of submission.

Please note: copies of student work may be kept for IPENZ accreditation.

Lab project:

There are three projects for NWEN 301. All projects use Pintos, which is a simple operating system framework for the 80x86 architecture. It supports kernel threads, loading and running user programs, and a file system, but it implements all of these in a very simple way. In the Pintos projects, you will extend the core Pintos implementation to make the OS much more functional (and useable). These projects are challenging, and require you to brush up on your C skills as well as your understanding of operating systems - the best advice is to start them early and attend your labs.

- In project 1 you will familiarize yourself with the Pintos development environment, permitting you to compile, build, execute and debug your kernel. You will also implement a more efficient thread wait (alarm).
- In project 2 you will implement a better thread scheduler.
- In project 3 you will implement a range of system calls, which will then allow you to write your own simple user programs which will execute on Pintos. Congratulations, your OS is limited, but operational!

The programming projects have been selected to emphasise and cement important operating systems concepts through practice, in particular fulfil learning objects 6-9.

All project works must be submitted via the electronic submission system.

Workload

In order to maintain satisfactory progress in NWEN 301, you should plan to spend an average of **10** hours per week on this paper. A plausible and approximate breakdown for these hours would be:

- Lectures: 2 hours
- Project work: approx. 3 hours
- Homework assignment: 1 hour
- Independent study: approx. 4 hours

School of Engineering and Computer Science

The School office is located on level three of the Cotton Building ([Cotton 358](#)).

The notice board for NWEN 301 is located on the second floor of the Cotton Building.

Staff

The course organiser for NWEN 301 is Aaron Chen. The lecturers for the course are Ryan Chard and Aaron Chen. Their contact details are:

- *Ryan Chard*
- AM406
- ryan.chard@ecs.vuw.ac.nz

- *Aaron Chen*
- AM405
- +64 4 463 5114
- aaron.chen@ecs.vuw.ac.nz

Tutor:

- Abigail Koay (abigail.koay@ecs.vuw.ac.nz)
- Jarrod Bakker (bakkerjarr@myvuw.ac.nz)

Announcements and Communication

The main means of communication outside of lectures will be the NWEN 301 web area at http://ecs.victoria.ac.nz/Courses/NWEN301_2016T1/. There you will find, among other things, this document, the [lecture schedule](#) and [assignment handouts](#), and the [NWEN 301 Forum](#). The forum is a web-based bulletin board system. Questions and comments can be posted to the forum, and staff will read these posts and frequently respond to them.

Assessment

Your grade for NWEN 301 will be determined based on the following assessment weightings:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Due</u>
Homework (x4)	10% (2.5% ea)	Week 3, Week 6, Week 9, Week 12
Project 1	5%	Week 4
Project 2	15%	Week 8
Project 3	15%	Week 12
Final Examination	55%	

Policies and penalties for late submission of internally accessed work

Project work will be penalised at a rate of 10% per day late, up to a limit of 5 days late, after which the work will not be accepted for marking.

Homework will not be accepted after the tutorial at which the solutions are distributed. Work submitted late, but prior to the tutorial will be penalised at 10% per day.

Exams

The [timetable for final examinations](#) will be available from the University web site and will be posted on a notice board outside the faculty office. The final examination will be **TWO** hours long. Electronic calculators with their memories erased are allowed in the final examination. Paper non-English to English dictionaries will be permitted. No other devices and materials are allowed. The examination period for trimester 1 is 10 June - 29 June.

The exam will focus on learning objectives 1-5, in particular your ability to demonstrate your understanding of the broader operating systems concepts and related theory.

Plagiarism

Working Together and Plagiarism

We encourage you to discuss the principles of the course and assignments with other students, to help and seek help with programming details, problems involving the lab machines. However, any work you hand in must be your own work.

The [School policy on Plagiarism](#) (claiming other people's work as your own) is available from the course home page. Please read it. We will penalise anyone we find plagiarising, whether from students currently doing the course, or from other sources. Students who knowingly allow other students to copy their work may also be penalised. If you have had help from someone else (other than a tutor), it is always safe to state the help that you got. For example, if you had help from someone else in writing a component of your code, it is not plagiarism as long as you state (eg, as a comment in the code) who helped you in writing the method.

Mandatory Course Requirements

Students must achieve a minimum D grade in the examination.

Passing NWEN 301

To pass NWEN 301, a student must satisfy mandatory requirements and gain at least a **C-** grade overall.

Withdrawal

The last date for withdrawal from NWEN 301 with entitlement to a refund of tuition fees is Friday 11 March 2016. The last date for withdrawal without being regarded as having failed the course is Friday 13 May 2016 -- though later withdrawals may be approved by the Dean in special circumstances.

Rules & Policies

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study>.

Find out about academic progress and restricted enrolment at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress>.

The University's statutes and policies are available at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>, except qualification statutes, which are available via the Calendar webpage at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar> (See Section C).

Further information about the University's academic processes can be found on the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic>

All students are expected to be familiar with the following regulations and policies, which are available from the school web site:

[Grievances](#)

[Student and Staff Conduct](#)

[Meeting the Needs of Students with Disabilities](#)

[Student Support](#)

[Academic Integrity and Plagiarism](#)

[Dates and Deadlines including Withdrawal dates](#)

[School Laboratory Hours and Rules](#)

[Printing Allocations](#)

[Expectations of Students in ECS courses](#)

The School of Engineering and Computer Science strives to anticipate all problems associated with its courses, laboratories and equipment. We hope you will find that your courses meet your expectations of a quality learning experience.

If you think we have overlooked something or would like to make a suggestion feel free to talk to your course organiser or lecturer.

[Course Outline as PDF](#)
