

The University of Texas at Tyler

COSC 3355.061

Operating Systems

Course Description: Fundamentals of operating systems design and implementation. Topics include an overview of the components of an operating system, mutual exclusion and synchronization, implementation of processes, scheduling algorithms, main and virtual memory management, and file systems.

Course Prerequisites: COSC 2315 and COSC 2336

Spring, 2026 January 13 - April 30

HYBRID TTH 9:30 AM - 10:50 AM
ASYNCHRONOUS ONLINE

Instructor: Dr. Stephen B. Rainwater

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Office Hours: TTH 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM
other (WED AM) by appointment only

Grade Determination:

Quizzes and Programming Assignments	20%
Examination I (Chapters 1 - 5)	25%
Examination II (Chapters 6 - 7)	25%
Final Examination (Comprehensive)	30%

Grading Scale
A = 100% - 90% D = 69% - 60%
B = 89% - 80% F = 59% - 0%
C = 79% - 70%

Course Outline:

OVERVIEW OF OPERATING SYSTEMS

1. Introduction to Operating Systems
2. Operating-System Structures

PROCESS MANAGEMENT

3. Processes
4. CPU Scheduling
5. Process Synchronization
6. Deadlocks

MEMORY MANAGEMENT

7. Main Memory
8. Virtual Memory

STORAGE AND DEVICE MANAGEMENT

9. File-System Interface and Implementation
10. Mass-Storage Structure
11. I/O Systems

PROTECTION AND SECURITY

CASE STUDIES

Important Dates:

March 10 & 12 - No Classes - Spring Break!
March 30 - **Last Day to Withdraw From Course**

Academic Calendar
Final Exam Schedule

UT Tyler Honor Code: I embrace honor and integrity. Therefore, I choose not to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

Course Examinations: An official one-week notice will be provided preceding each course examination. At least one class period prior to each examination, a review guide will be provided, detailing exam format, major topical coverage, problem descriptions and types, etc. Unless otherwise noted, no electronic devices will be allowed during the testing period including classroom computers, calculators, mobile or smartphones, etc. Examinations will be graded on as timely a basis as possible with results posted in Canvas. Relevant problems from graded exams will be discussed in a subsequent class or via video. For the remainder of the semester, students are strongly encouraged to visit with the instructor during scheduled office hours or by appointment to more fully discuss their examinations.

Academic Dishonesty: You are expected to do your own work. You may discuss with each other general concepts, but direct assistance with any particular assignment or any attempts to gain an unfair academic advantage will not be tolerated. Cheating is considered a serious academic offense both by the department and the University. It may result in a failing grade from this course for all parties involved. In order to preserve academic integrity, the instructor reserves the right to ask you to explain any programming assignment that you turn in to judge if the work is actually yours and/or employ plagiarism detection software to authenticate student authorship.

Disability/Accessibility Services: If you have a disability, including a learning disability, for which you request accommodation, please contact the Student Accessibility and Resources office so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodation must provide documentation of his/her disability to the Student Accessibility and Resources counselor. For more information, call or visit the Student Services Center located in the University Center, Room 3150. The office telephone number is 903-566-7079 (TDD 903-565-5579). Requests for disability accommodations are the responsibility of the student and submissions must be approved by the Student Accessibility and Resources office prior to the official census date (January 29).

Writing Center: The UT Tyler Writing Center provides professional writing tutoring for all students. If you wish to use the Writing Center, you should plan for a minimum of two hour-long tutorials per assignment: the first to assess your needs, and the second to follow up. Be prepared to take an active role in your learning, as you will be asked to discuss your work. Tutors at the Writing Center will be happy to give constructive criticism and teach effective writing techniques but will not write your paper for you. Appointments are strongly encouraged: call 903-565-5995 or e-mail: writingcenter@uttyler.edu

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT MUST APPEAR IN EACH COURSE SYLLABUS

UT Tyler Honor Code

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

Students Rights and Responsibilities

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: <http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>

UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University

All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors.

Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products.

There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free.

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability/Accessibility Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

Student Absence due to Religious Observance

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Student Standards of Academic Conduct

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

- i. "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:
 - copying from another student's test paper;
 - using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
 - failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
 - possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes". The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
 - using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
 - collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
 - discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
 - divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
 - substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
 - paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
 - falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
 - taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
 - misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.
- ii. "Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the submission of it as one's own academic work offered for credit.
- iii. "Collusion" includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.
- iv. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.

UT Tyler Resources for Students

- [UT Tyler Writing Center](#) (903.565.5995), writingcenter@utt Tyler.edu
- [UT Tyler Tutoring Center](#) (903.565.5964), tutoring@utt Tyler.edu
- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
- [UT Tyler Counseling Center](#) (903.566.7254)

Course Syllabus
Spring 2026

1. Course number and name

COSC 3355: Operating Systems

2. Credits and contact hours

3 Credit Hours

3. Instructor's or course coordinator's name

Instructor: Stephen B. Rainwater

4. Textbook, title, author, and year - None Required

5. Specific course information

a. A brief description of the content of the course (catalog description)

Fundamentals of operating systems design and implementation. Topics include an overview of the components of an operating system, mutual exclusion and synchronization, implementation of processes, scheduling algorithms, main and virtual memory management, and file systems.

b. Prerequisites or co-requisites

COSC 2315 and COSC 2336

c. Indicate whether a required, elective, or selected elective course in the program

Required course for BS CS and BS CMPE programs and BS IT Track Option #3

6. Specific goals of the course. Specific outcomes of instruction. The student will be able to:

a. Explain the objectives of a modern operating system.

b. Describe the functions of a contemporary operating system with respect to convenience, efficiency, and the ability to evolve.

c. Identify potential threats to operating systems and defend the need for protection and security, and the role of ethical considerations in computer use.

d. Explain the following resources and techniques as applicable to system operation: kernel versus user mode, interrupt processing, device drivers, dispatching, and context switch.

e. Explain synchronization among concurrently executing processes and issues/solutions to mutual exclusion.

f. Compare and contrast the common algorithms used for both preemptive and non-preemptive scheduling of tasks in operating systems.

- g. Explain the principal implementations of main and virtual memory management including comparison of paging and segmentation techniques.
- h. Compare and contrast different approaches to file organization and implementation, recognizing the strengths and weaknesses of each.
- i. Differentiate the mechanisms used in interfacing a range of I/O devices to a computer and explain the design for these in an operating system.

7. *Brief list of topics to be covered*

- a. Overview of operating systems
- b. Operating system principles
- c. Processes
- d. Concurrency
- e. Threads
- f. CPU scheduling and dispatch
- g. Process synchronization and mutual exclusion
- h. Deadlocks
- i. Main and virtual memory management
- j. File system interface and implementation
- k. I/O systems