IST 261 Introduction to Linux

Course Syllabus - Spring 2015¹ (R 4:00 pm - 6:20 pm PH 200)

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Office hours: 12:30 – 3:30 pm TR by appointment.

Course Description: Introduces the Linux family of operating systems. The Linux environment, basic commands, file system, processes, utilities, system structures and scripting are explored.

This course is not for Linux system programming, nor Linux system administration.

Required Text, Additional Reading, and Other Materials: There is no required textbook in this course. The following book can be used as a reference:

• LINUX: The Textbook, Sarwar, Koretsky and Sarwar, 2002. ISBN: 0-201-72595-9.

Recommended Materials: Linux distributions such as Ubuntu.

Course Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment Measures:

Course student learning outcomes:	How practiced in this	How assessed in this	
Students will	course	course	
Use basic Linux commands and utilities	discussion, hands-on,	6 to 8 assignments and	
from the command-line	in-class presentation	3 exams	
Organize files in the Linux file system	discussion, hands-on,	3 to 4 assignments and	
	in-class presentation	2 exams	
Create and edit files in the Linux file system	discussion, hands-on,	1 to 2 assignments and	
	in-class presentation	1 exam	
Manage processes in the Linux file system	discussion, hands-on,	1 to 2 assignments and	
	in-class presentation	1 exam	
Install applications in the Linux environ-	discussion, hands-on,	1 to 2 assignments and	
ment	in-class presentation	1 exam	
Be able to write basic Linux shell scripts	discussion, hands-on,	1 to 2 assignments and	
	in-class presentation	1 exam	

Course Requirements and Grading:

Attendance	5% deduction from the overall grade for each absence beyond
	the third absence
Assignments	50% of the overall from 6 to 8 assignments, equally weighted
Exams	50% of the overall from 3 exams, equally weighted

Grades from assignments and exams are posted to Blackboard. Final letter grades are determined based on the following grading scale (Do not rely on what is automatically calculated by the Blackboard):

Late assignments will be penalized at the rate of 10% per day, and will only be accepted up to two days (including weekends and holidays) after the due date.

¹Last modified: Tuesday 13th January, 2015 12:42

There will be no make-up chances for missed exams and assignments unless a proper action has been taken for an Excused Absence². It is the student's responsibility to make up the missing exam within a week.

The instructor reserves the right to change these values depending on the overall class performance and/or extenuating circumstances.

Attendance Policy: Attendance and participation are required in class. For each absence beyond the third absence, 5% will be deducted from the student's overall grade. If a student is absent, it is his or her responsibility to find out what he or she missed, e.g. announcements, assignments, etc. The instructor will assume no responsibility in this regard.

Course Outline: (subject to changes)

We	eek of	Topics to be covered	Assignment
1	1/12	Syllabus; Overview	
2	1/19	Using the command-line	HW 1
3	1/26	Linux installation; GUI	
4	2/2	Using text editors	HW 2
5	2/9	Exam (Thursday)	
6	2/16	Linux filesystem	HW 3
7	2/23	File security	
8	3/2	File processing, sharing	HW 4
9	3/9	Exam (Thursday)	
10	3/16	Spring Break	
11	3/23	Processes	HW 5
12	3/30	Pipes and redirection; Job control	
13	4/6	Editing text files	HW 6
14	4/13		
15	4/20	Exam (Thursday)	
16	4/27		HW 7

Class preparation: Preparation is necessary for learning. For this class, reading the textbook chapters before coming to class is an absolute necessity. If necessary, quizzes will be given to ensure your interest in reading the textbook. Keep in mind that this course is not about programming but about how programming languages work. Students need to gain understanding first before putting things in practice. It is a fair assumption that all the suggested readings will be covered by exams.

Contact: Students are encouraged to visit with me. Most problems can be resolved more efficiently and effectively by personal visit. In particular, it may not be the best way to send an e-mail on the due day of an assignment asking a help for the assignment.

Should e-mails are preferred, students should use the e-mail address of the instructor at the beginning of this syllabus. Only the e-mails sent to this account will be responded.

The subject line of any e-mails sent to the instructor should start with "[IST261]". Otherwise, the e-mails may not be responded properly in a timely manner. Emails sent after hours or weekend will be replied the next school day.

²Defined in the Undergraduate Catalog.

A useful information on how students can forward their Marshall emails to an address of their choosing can be found at http://www.marshall.edu/muonline/e-mail/.

University policies: By enrolling in this course, you agree to the University Policies listed below. Please read the full text of each policy be going to http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs or, you can access the policies directly by going to http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/?page_id=802.

Academic Dishonesty/ Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduates/ Computing Services Acceptable Use/ Inclement Weather/ Dead Week/ Students with Disabilities/ Academic Forgiveness/ Academic Probation and Suspension/ Academic Rights and Responsibilities of Students/ Affirmative Action/ Sexual Harassment