CS 4400 – Computer Systems

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Course Information

https://www.eng.utah.edu/~cs4400/

- Prerequisite: CS 3810
- Recommended: CS 3505
Registering for CS 4400 Fall 2018

• There’s a waiting list

• Preference given to students who need the course now to satisfy requirements  
  e.g., CE student to take ECE 5780 in the Spring

• Waiting list or permission code: e-mail tracyv@cs.utah.edu  
  — CC mflatt@cs.utah.edu  
  --- please include details of need in request
Why CS 4400?

Explore layers of abstraction — especially the lower ones, but above hardware

... Java Virtual Machine
    C
    Operating System
    Memory Hierarchy
    Instruction Set Architecture
    Hardware
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  Hardware
Course Skills

**Unix** both technically and culturally

- Processes, file descriptors, sockets
- Shells, `gcc`, `gdb`

**C** as a “portable assembly language”

- Exposed data representations
- Unsafe
- Manual memory management
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ANSI C = C89 = C90
default gcc on CADE machines
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Seriously!
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*Seriously!*

default `gcc` on CADE

We’ll count C99/C11 homework as wrong
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**x86-64** but transferrable to, e.g., ARM
Course Concepts

Representing data, especially numbers
Instruction sets
Optimization
Linking
Processes and signals
Memory allocation
Networking APIs
Concurrency
Useful Outcomes of CS 4400

You will be a more effective programmer

• detecting and fixing bugs more efficiently

• understanding and tuning program performance

You will be comfortable using the terminal and command line

You will have a firm foundation for specialized systems classes and real-word software development
CS 4400 Organization

- Video lectures
- Before-class quiz on videos
- Recitation-style class
- Lab sessions
- Homework assignments
Course Structure: Homework Assignments

match
bomb (disassembly)
performance
linking
shell
malloc
server

2 weeks each, sometimes student-specific
Course Structure: Videos, Classes, and Lab Sessions

Before Monday & Wednesday:

• video lectures posted
• quiz on video due 1 hour before class

Monday & Wednesday:

• class meets for extended examples

Thursday:

• lab session in MEB 3167 (not CADE)
Command-Line Arguments
Running Programs at a Command Line

$ /bin/cat one.txt two.txt
Running Programs at a Command Line

$ /bin/cat one.txt two.txt

prompt  program  arguments
Running Programs at a Command Line

A command line is itself a program known as a **shell**

The default shell is **/bin/bash**

```
$ /bin/echo a b
```
Running Programs at a Command Line

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```
$ /bin/echo a b
```

argument argument
A command line is itself a program known as a **shell**

The default shell is `/bin/bash`

```bash
$ /bin/echo "a b"
```

argument
Shell Quoting

Both " and ' are quotes in bash, but with different rules

More information:

    man bash