

Computer Science 304
Computer Organization
Spring 2025
Syllabus

Instructor

Dr. Timothy A. Davis
McGlothlin-Street Hall 133
Office hours: MWTh 5:00-6:00
tadavis@wm.edu

Course Webpage

<http://www.cs.wm.edu/~tadavis/cs304>

Class Meetings

Section 1: TR 2:00–3:20 Blow 334
Section 2: TR 3:30–4:50 Blow 334

Teaching Assistants

Section 1: Danny Otten dsotten@wm.edu
Section 2: Khai-Nguyen Nguyen knguyen07@wm.edu

Textbooks

Randal E. Bryant and David R. O'Hallaron, *Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective* (3rd Edition), Pearson, 2016. [required]

Brian W. Kernighan and Dennis M. Ritchie, *The C Programming Language* (2nd Edition), Prentice Hall, 1988. [recommended]

Prerequisite

CSCI 241 – Data Structures

Course Description

Organization of computer hardware and software; virtual machines, computer systems organization, machine language, assembler language and microprogramming.

Grading

Final grades will be based on assignments, a midterm test, and a final exam with appropriate weights based on difficulty. Letter grades will be based on a 10-point scale with +/- designations awarded accordingly. All grades will be posted on Blackboard.

Assignments	40%			
Midterm	25%			
Final Exam	35%	Section 1: Tuesday	May 6	2:00–5:00
		Section 2: Thursday	May 8	2:00–5:00

Last day to drop: Friday, January 31, 2025
Last day to withdraw: Monday, March 24, 2025

Course Policies

To be successful in this course, you must follow several guidelines, listed below.

- **Class Cancellation** Students are expected to wait for 15 minutes after the scheduled class starting time before leaving if the instructor is late.
- **Professionalism** Students are expected to be respectful in class, and refrain from disrupting the class in any way.
- **Assignments** Written assignments should be typeset or neatly written with problems/pages in proper order and stapled. All work must be shown; otherwise, points may be deducted. Further, problems must be completed according to methods covered in class; alternate methods that produce the same or different results will be counted as incorrect. Points may be deducted even if your answer is correct if your solution is more complicated than it needs to be, difficult to read or understand, not expressed in correct technical English, or incomplete.
- **Projects** All projects must be submitted through Blackboard and run on the linux computers available in the MS 121 lab. Of course, any project can be completed on your home computer or laptop, but failure to ensure that it compiles and/or runs on the department machines may result in significant point deductions.
- **Independent Work** You must work on written assignments and projects independently, unless explicitly stated otherwise. Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in significant penalties and/or academic integrity charges. Cheating involves any viewing, copying, or discussion of problems or code from the internet, including AI (e.g., ChatGPT), or consulting with other students, whether enrolled in this course or not. Please seek help from me or the TAs only.
- **Deadlines** Deadlines will be enforced, with a late penalty of 10%/day. Submissions will not be accepted after three days past the due date. Additionally, no emailed assignments or projects will be accepted.
- **Grade Disputes** Scores for graded work will be posted on Blackboard. Any questions or disputes concerning assignments, exams, or programs, must be resolved no sooner than 24 hours after the assignment has been returned and no later than one week after the date the graded work is posted/returned; otherwise, all grades are final. Please note that the entire homework, project, or exam, not just the part in question, is subject to regrading.
- **Accommodation** William & Mary accommodates students with disabilities in accordance with federal laws and university policy. Any student who feels they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a learning, psychiatric, physical, or chronic health diagnosis should contact Student Accessibility Services staff at 757-221-2512 or at sas@wm.edu to determine if accommodations are warranted and to obtain an official letter of accommodation. For more information, please see <http://www.wm.edu/sas>.