CSE421LR - Operating Systems

Instructor   Geoffrey Challen

Term	Spring 2012	**Class #**	10280	**Section**	000	**Type**	Lecture	**Enrollment**	48	**Response Rate**	62.5%

Grading was really slow. Have only received part of ASST0 scores. Assignments were always given later than stated. As the the assignments got harder, the amount of time we had to work was less, i.e. we had more time on ASST0 than on ASST3. Overall poor time management.

Great course, unfortunately students are wholly unprepared for this course because of UB's terrible professors and education.

I really liked the lectures give by Professor Challen as they were extremely interesting and engaging. I liked that he went over the previous lectures materials by asking us questions about it in the beginning of class. This really helped reinforce the material. The tests so far have been fair for the most part, though I could have used more direction on what to study for it. The course work load was much more than I was used to. I was only taking 12 credits and I felt like I was running out of time to get everything done. The projects themselves were hard, but rewarding when you got them to work. The only negative thing that I have to say is that the grading for our projects took an unacceptable amount of time to get back. For instance, our first project that was due at the end of January/ beginning of February is only half way done being graded. I really enjoyed CSE 421 and I learned a lot of valuable skills from doing the assignments.

Did not get graded project back in a timely manner. He was a good instructor though and was very personable.

Difficult but rewarding

The professor was very knowledgeable and a great lecturer. He was also very helpful to me, at least, when I went into his office to ask questions The thing that turned me off to this class was the projects and the TA's. The projects took up a lot of time and almost seemed like a full time job to work on them. If the effort and time put into them is reflected in the final grade then I have no problems, but to spend all that time on a project to get only half of the project done was a turn off and very frustrating. This is a class that most seniors need to graduate and it seems like a lot of kids could end up failing. Again, I don't know how the grading is but if they could somehow reflect the effort in the class I would be okay with it and would recommend it to other students, but if all the grades reflect the progress on the project, I would not recommend this course simply because it takes up so much time (and could end up failing regardless) but also ends up hurting the other classes being taken. I also believe the grading scheme needs to change. They might as well have automated grading because the ta's grade based off the grading rubric, either giving all credit or none at all. It's is like they can't think outside the box and understand what we are trying to explain and instead look for "keywords" and if you don't have them then you get a 0.

The overall course was excellent; very well taught and explained. The professor was an excellent lecture and could really relate to his students. There were only two issues that I had with it, the grading and the project difficulty. The difficulty in part was due to unknowledgeable TAs (though this would have been a difficult problem in itself to subvert seeing as how this is an entirely new way of teaching this course at UB). The grading though was pretty ridiculous, it's now the end of April and we are still lacking feedback and grades on projets we handed back in early and mid February.

He's a really good lecturer and willing to help outside of class. However, his expectations are too high for the projects. The work we put in for the second half of the course was comparable to a full time job, and we still didn't come close to finishing the assignments which was extremely frustrating. The class was way too much work for 4 credit hours.

perfect

This is one of the hardest courses at UB (When it is thought by Challen). It required crazy amount of work and dedication. The worse thing about the course was that it is the end of the semester almost and I still do not know how I did on my projects. The grading for the class was poorly planed. Maybe this course was not that bad at Harvard.

However, UB does not has CS students with good enough coding skills to handle this much of coding without serious time dedication (so serious that you might want to drop other classes.)

Good class.
Way too much work.
Very little compromises.

Great lecturer, very helpful, terrible with providing project grading feedback, projects are an unreasonable amount of work (especially with our piss-poor background in C)

Geoff is an awesome prof. He is very passionate about operating systems and is the most enthusiastic professor I have ever met. He is always looking for new ways to engage students which is very important. Some of his weaknesses (ie grading) will subside both (a) as he continues to gain teaching experience, and (b) as he works with TAs who have taken his version of Operating Systems.

Please, whatever you do, do NOT make this course any easier or remove material from it. This was a fantastic wake-up call for me, I learned a ton of stuff from it, and I wish all of my other CSE classes had been this challenging and taught me this much. Plus, Dr. Challen is a great professor and does a great job of keeping lectures and the course interesting.

I really enjoyed this class. It will definitely better and better as Geoff gets to teach it more. The only thing I would have liked changed would have been a better and more competent course staff. It was almost useless to ask any of the TAs questions. Geoff did a great job at taking time to answer your questions if you had something legitimate. Many times I had over an hour long conversations with Geoff about design principles and any other problems i had in the course.

The course had a huge work load. About 20+ hours a week. That may be good for Harvard, but adding in the other classes and work, it's a little much. We had 2 weeks to do the last project which should have been at the very minimum a month. Also, our project grades took too long to get back. The first project was being returned as we started the 4th. The professor was great in lectures. Very engaging and kept the class moving at a decent pace. The only complaint I have is what was previously stated about the immense workload that doesn't fit (in my opinion) with a state college.

Not enough TAs, grading done at a glacial pace, projects way too large and time consuming (50+ hours), interesting course though.

very difficult!

Assignments were difficult and extremely time-intensive, the instructor must have forgotten that students have at least two or three other classes for which work must be done. The projects did not help me learn anything, and I hate operating systems now more than I have before.

Trying to understand os161 took a lot of time to try to understand and even then it was still confusing. I felt that this class consisted of fairly difficult material but it makes sense cause there are grad students there.

CSE521LEC - Operating Systems

Instructor   Geoffrey Challen

Term Spring 2012   **Class #** 10178   **Section** 000   **Type** Lecture   **Enrollment** 51   **Response Rate** 88.2%

New try , I learned a lot from this course.

Too much project with too little instructions

Kernel is an interesting topic but the project I think is a little hard for us.

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not enough help on homework assinments

Instructor should provide more hints for assignment. The fact is that the harder assignment is,less hints there are. It waste us a lot of time to find useful information online.
The same assignment 3 in University of toronto, their instructor Ashvin Goel give them 4 weeks, but we just have three weeks with much less hints and , at the end of semester.

This course is good, anyway. Without our instructor, we will never have a chance to study operating system in this way in UB.

Projects are a bit too hard, but it's a good way to learn OS

Hope there will be less fancy stuff, more useful ones.

Need Feedback! Can't expect students to do well in a course that's not marking assignments in reasonable time.

Prof. Challen was an excellent professor for this course. The lectures were informative and easy to understand. The grading was somewhat lacking however, seeing that I received my grade for the very first assignment near the end of the course, and I haven't even gotten any feedback on the other two assignments. Also, having the TA's grade the midterm did not go over too well, because they didn't seem to understand that you can explain the answer using different words than the answer key.

Would have been better if the TA's knew more about the course work.

Geoff is amazing lecturer. So good that it blows my mind how many people skipped every class. The assignments require way too much previous experience that is not taught at the university. He did not mention anything about C, Git, or GDB in class, which is okay but expecting us all teach ourselves to be experts with all three of these on top of the huge projects is a stretch. The projects don't really match up with course material. The assignments would have been much better if they demanded us to think about the design decisions and how to implement operating system components. Instead, we had to spend our time figuring out how to do something simple in C.

Anyway, the topics I learned in class will certainly stick with me forever and I will definitely be a better developer because of it.

It requires critical and original thinking. The instructor is passionate and professional.

This was really 2 classes. The lectures and tests are concept-based at a high level. Very informative and interesting. The projects we were on our own to figure out practical implementation. It really depended ALOT on who you knew and what google posts you and your friends stumbled upon. It shouldn't be a class about how well Facebooked you are. The workload was that of 3 classes, no joke. There are not enough hours in the day to complete the projects. The TA's were almost useless. We knew more than they do. But they have the grading key. The midterm answers were graded like a parser compiling code: you had to have the exact keywords in the exact key places to get credit. That is, the graders of short answer and essay prose questions themselves are clearly very poor at basic English reading

comprehension skills. We are the ones who lose points.

I hope the instructor can speak slower. It is a little bit hard for me to follow him.

Expected timely feedback, could have helped

A lighter workload would help the students - so much time is spent working on the coding assignments that little time is left for anything else

Earlier grading feedback and earlier project release might help in the future. It's a bit hectic trying to fit in time to study for finals and complete the last project.

Considering the professor is new to teaching he needs to really improve on the academic aspects of giving workload considering the other courses as well.Also grading of assignments and tests done poorly.

Professor Challen is extremely knowledgeable about operating systems and helped us understand the internals of the operating system

Tough course, but very interesting, and very well taught. The assignment grading and feedback could and should have been faster.

Best course and best prof in UB so far. instructor was enthusiastic and passionate about teaching. I would recommend this course to everyone studying Computer Science in UB

Jeff is one of the best teachers I have had in the CS department. He was very challenging but it pushed me to learn. He was VERY VERY CLEAR the amount of work this class would be. He told students they would need to work 20hrs a week in his class and I would say that sounds about right.

I had no interest what so every in operating systems but now I am taking the next operating systems course this summer with ken smith. I am now very interested in the field and hope to get much better at it. Maybe one day I will contribute to an open source operating system!

Jeff would constantly ask the class questions this was great. It forced me to be prepared before class, just in case he would ask me a question. He seemed to stopped picking on people at random towards the end of the semester, but I think he should have continued to ask random people questions about material.

I was not impressed with the TA (Sonali). She was late several times (one of which was about 10 minutes or more). The lateness was not a big deal. What bothered me more was people would ask her questions and she would give generic answers or tell people to read the man pages. I think it was because she did not know much about os161. She taught the same recitation for 3 weeks (after asst2 was done). She said she did this because she did not have enough material to share for 3 weeks. I think it would have helped me and my group out a lot if she gave more information during these 3 weeks. She was always kind and polite. I think if os161 style OS is taught again the TA needs to be more familiar with the os161 code.

I wish the project were available sooner. This would give use more time to work on it. I wish we got more design feedback sooner. I wish there was more material to help us prepare for the project. I feel like most people just went online and found blogs that told people what they should do for their project. Maybe this is ok, because these blogs (that I found) were usually general in their information.

I think the work load may have been a little to hard. Maybe I am wrong.

I think the grading took way to long.

Fantastic course work I would have ever imagined. Though I have not done well, I love to be part of his lecture. Great efforts from Geoffrey and his team. I suspect learning curve is much higher in terms of System programming for this course.

wokr load is too heavy, everything else is really good.

The instructor had very high achievement standards but failed to assist and help students in the course.The staff nor the prof use to answer our doubt and emails. The instructor is not approachable and rude at times. I had great interest in learning OS but after taking this class I lost my interest and was actually thinking to drop this class.Our assignments were never graded on time as a result we have still not received our first assignment grades.The course OS161 is actually good if taught well but the instructor doesn't know this subject and moreover doesn't know how to teach.