

CSE421LR - Operating Systems

Instructor Geoffrey Challen

Term	Spring 2013	Class	10239	Section	000	Type	Lecture	Enrollment	51	Response Rate	86.3%
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This has been without a doubt the best class I have taken at UB. Lectures are fun and stimulating, and Prof Challen is very good at teaching. He is engaging and energetic, and seems to want to teach us all he knows. He encourages questions of any sort at any time, and always looks into those he can't answer immediately. The projects were very difficult, and that was the biggest downside to the class.

The professor clearly enjoys this subject and loves teaching it, which always makes lecture good. The pace, however, often seemed slow. And the Professor seemed to have a sixth sense about the 2 minutes of the entire lecture where you zoned out and would choose that time to call on you. I found his random calling on people frustrating, especially when there were plenty of people ready to volunteer answers.

Prof. Challen holds the most engaging, thoughtful, and useful lectures I have experienced at UB. Lecture materials are available outside of class, but nothing replaces going through the concepts with him during lecture hours. The assignments were intense and required much more effort than the lectures, which put much of the burden on the student outside of class. While the assignments are a true test of programming skill, and assistance is available during many hours of the week, the separation of the assignments from what was taught in lecture forced the student to teach him/herself a majority of the coursework. I would recommend the prof./class to other students, especially if they desire to strengthen their skills with a significant Challen(ge). (Wow, that was terrible)

My favorite computer science course ever! I did find it a bit odd that we were learning memory management while doing the file system assignment (ASST2), and then learning about files and other stuff during the memory management assignment (ASST3). My biggest criticism of the class is the lecture time. I think 11am or 12pm would be optimal.

Geoff is an engaging professor and learned a lot however the review period at the beginning of class was redundant and unnecessary for a 400/500-level course. The assignments were very interesting but some of them need to be cut down. There are only 2 weeks left in the semester and my partner and I, who have been working about 10-hours a week together on the project and have been well ahead of the pace of the rest of the class, still have an entire assignment to start. The massive workload decreases my motivation to even try because I know there is no hope of completing it. Not to mention the 3-hour exam that I need time to study for.

This course was very programming intensive and allowed me to use much of the skills that I learned in earlier years of the computer science programming. My only problem is that there weren't firm enough deadlines for the programming assignments. I would have liked to have the deadlines set as apart of the syllabus.

Geoff is an amazing teacher who's fair and understand the struggles of being a college student. Just one thing, for the sake of your future students, BRING BACK DUE DATES! At least for ASST0 and ASST1. When you have two or three other CSE courses that do have due dates, it's easy to let these assignments slip under the radar. Maybe even split the assignments into smaller chunks, almost as if they were homework. Either way, DUE DATES! ;)

Dr Geoffrey Challen is a huge asset to University At Buffalo. His organization of CSE421 is breathtaking. Every lecture was recorded and posted via youtube on class website. That allowed us - students, to stay on track even if we have missed a class. Projects were quite hard but not impossible. I can clearly say that my programming skills were significantly enhanced. I would really recommend this class to anyone who values a true challenge and professionalism. Moreover, Dr Challen always tries to keep class active by asking various questions and picking people to answer. I must admit it's quite unusual way, especially in large classes but it works! I've never fell asleep in this class although it was early in the morning. My only advice goes to whoever plans out the courses: Don't put this class at 9am in the morning, please. I bet if instead 9am, it would be at 11/12, the attendance would be 60% greater than it is now. To conclude, that was the best class I've taken at UB. P.S Although the class have around 100 people, Dr Challen managed to remember everyone's name. This is amazing! 9+/10 (because there is always place for improvement)

The project was hard but it forced you to learn a lot.

This is the best class and best instructor i ever had. He makes me feel more interest towards operating system. Keep it up and don't lower the standard to make it easy. It is hard for lazy people

Very good teacher. Engages the entire class. Love it

Yabba Dabba Doo

This was easily the best course I have taken at UB. Geoff breaks down very complex material into terms that nearly everybody can understand. The projects, while a pain, definitely made me learn so much about the kernel. This course is very relevant to the real world, unlike courses such as CSE396. You should hire more professors like Challen. It says a lot when a professor will memorize the name of every single person in class, and speak to them like human beings outside of class. It is also amazing when the professor can actually speak English. Professors like Geoff are an incredible asset to the school. I have learned more in the first half of the course, than I have learned at the end of any course I have taken.

Most people can't finish totally four assignments, why where are still be four heavy projects. Maybe less workload is better for understanding the course material.

Professor is a great lecturer and his style prevents the lectures from getting dry. The assignments however are extremely difficult.

the course was interesting, and the professor was clearly excited about what he was teaching

Overall the course is very hard if you cannot make time to do the assignments, but Geoff is one of the better teachers I've had because he actually makes the lectures interesting and fun.

very intriguing class, opened up a whole new world to me in CS. . . Challen himself is a great guy, kind, friendly, and VERY knowledgeable in the subject.

Geoffrey is perhaps, one of the best professors I have had here at UB. UB administration should take minute to observe Geoffrey in a classroom setting and take note on his characteristics and abilities. I really wish I had more professors like him at UB. As for the course, this was perhaps one of the most difficult courses I have taken at UB. Perhaps too difficult to be listed as an under graduate class. How ever Geoffrey is able to mentor the entire class through the depths of the code, and truly helped me to achieve the best i can

Great course. Learned the most from this course out of all my courses, regardless of the fact that the course is pretty hard.

I am a chronic procrastinator and fell behind in the assignments almost immediately. This was my first 400 level cs class and I was intimidated from seeking aid outside of class with TAs or Geoff because of my progress (or lack thereof) in the assignments. Clearly I'm at fault here more than anyone else but I just thought I'd put it out there.

Very smart guy, expects a lot of you, but that works in your favor.

Really hard. I'm struggling to get even the third out of four projects done. It's a lot. However, I think I learned more in this from the projects in any other course ever.

One of the most beneficial courses I have taken at UB.

I want this class to be held in the afternoon, not early in the morning since CSE421 by Dr. Challen is really decent and challenging class, and 9 AM is too early for most of seniors and graduate students . I want to apologize to professor for having not attended the class very well.

CSE521LEC - Operating Systems

Instructor Geoffrey Challen

Term	Spring 2013	Class	10143 #	Section	000	Type	Lecture	Enrollment	39	Response Rate	94.9%
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It is better to give more hints or help about programming projects

Professor Challen is an excellent professor. This course was super tough. But he made it fun for us. I would attend every lecture he takes even if it was for 3 hours a day <without getting bored even for a second>. His lectures made it worthwhile to wake up at 7am. I believe I am lucky to have taken this course under Professor. Challen. Definitely the best CS course at UB in my opinion.

AWESOME course!! Professor is the best professor i ever had in my life. In future, if i think of PhD then I would like to have him as my guide. Before this course I was interested in OS, now I love OS and can see OS/161 code in my dreams...:-)

The best course I have taken in UB so far!

Having deadlines for the assignments would make it easier. Also putting a pre-requisite for C programming will help the students since the assignments deal with ure knowledge of C pointers and memory allocations.

Excellent coursework and the best professor to learn the course from!

One of the most awesomest Prof's ever!! I love the course!! and I'm sure no one else would have done a better job than Geoff!!

Probably the best course offered in Computer Science Dept.

Very good course, if it can be offered in Fall by same instructor it would be great.

Deadline for each individual assignments would be preferable. The overall deadline made us focus on other subjects first.

Awesome professor. Great class. I really liked the way the deadlines for the projects were placed at the end of the semester. This gave time to both slack off and catch up on other courses (;P) This course will get you to learn a lot more about the C programming language and will give you a taste of what any flavor of *nix looks like.

Every thing was perfect, but one change can be done, due to no deadlines of assignments students used to procrastinate the assignments, there should be some intermediate deadlines so that assignment can be done in timely manner, I do not suggest firm deadline like other courses because this is the beauty of CSE 521, so there should be something in between firm deadline and no deadline. I know it is difficult to implement but I think Dr. Geoffrey can do this also.

This was the best courses I took at UB, in fact the best course i have taken so far ever. I thoroughly enjoyed the assignments and the projects handed out, and the instructor actually stimulated interest in this subject and actually made you want to attend the lectures, even when they were early in the morning. There were plenty of TA office hours and the TAs for this course were very helpful with the assignments. I would really like to commend the instructor on this wonderful job. This course turned out to be the one i had come to UB for.

struggled but learned a lot!

Should have increased the rate at which material was being covered in the class

The best course I have attended so far

This was one of the best course and I learnt that I intended too.

One of the best classes I've ever come across

Great
