

CSE421LR - Operating Systems

Instructor Geoffrey Challen

Term	Spring 2014	Class	24522 #	Section	000	Type	Lecture	Enrollment	86	Response Rate	83.7%
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Very engaging lecturer. I enjoyed attending class.

The work load for this course is entirely too difficult. I spent 20+ hours a week with my project partner trying to complete the assignments, yet ultimately we were still unable to finish them completely. The amount of work I spent on these projects, plus a full time job made my other classes suffer greatly from my lack of time to give them proper attention. The fact that this class is also offered in the summer WITH A REDUCED COURSE LOAD, makes me feel incredibly angry and betrayed. Thank god I never have to take this class again, and I completely regret my decision taking it with Dr. Challen

I liked the class a lot. a lot of work load but I expected it with this being a 400 level class.

Instructor was rude answering questions and emails

Work load is beyond ridiculous

Overall, the class is mediocre

OS really is an awesome course! Geoffrey *might* be overhyping it at the beginning of the semester, but not by much.

Very difficult homeworks that made recitations seem like a separate class. Should have shorter, more driven homework projects. Also test questions were interesting and inquisitive, but the "research" long questions should be a separate assignment, like a paper done at home, because they require research and lots of thinking to do effectively. Tests should be more straight forward. Otherwise course was very interesting.

Very high work load with this class

Difficult course and the workload is hellish...but the professor's lectures are among the best I've had in college. Very clear, very concise, and while the core subjects are labyrinthine, he brings it to a comprehensible level. Unfortunately, grading is slow.

Time spent outside classes was too much.

It's hard but pretty cool.

Great class ever!!

I have enjoyed this class. I believe that the tests were more difficult than they should be. A student may have a good grasp on the material but not be able to come up with an innovative solution to the long answer questions on the tests. If this is the case the student will lose a majority of the points on the test. I think at the beginning of the course more should be done to get students familiar with the code, and more c programming help should be given. My biggest struggle in the course was my lack of experience programming in c. I really like that lectures videos are posted online. I have attended most classes, but having the ability to go back before the final and watch lectures again is a big help. In the future it would help if you posted the up-to-date lecture slides online. I think the online auto grader can use some work. For ASST2 I think the grading should be broken up more. Lastly, I think that students should not get penalized on ASST3 for not being able to complete ASST2. They already lost the points on ASST2, so that should not carry over and hurt them on ASST3. Give out the ASST2 solution. The students are at a disadvantage because they need to learn the new code, but at least they have a chance to get ASST3 done.

Quite a challenging class, but it was a good experience

Some people in class at the back would watch videos during class or play goat simulator. One fellow was watching gore

videos. Not much you can do about the people who attend class, but just a heads up for next time. Class was good, no real complaints.

One of the best course I've taken at UB.

All the office hours were really nice and helped alot. It was really cool that Geoff gave up his office and sort of let us fill up his lab for office hours. The multiple deadlines weren't a huge deal with my group as we used the deadlines that Jinghao had in his recitation notes as a guideline of where we should be with the assignments. I think the review sessions at the beginning of each lecture were the right length, enough of a review that you could remember what we did last class but not so much that it felt like you were sitting through the material twice. Sometimes the laser pointer wasn't actually showing up on the screen during class and it was particularly hard to see in the videos. I did really appreciate the videos being online, it allowed me to easily review the material and to manage my own schedule if something came up such that I couldn't make it to class that day. I would say that the workload was a little extreme except that we were all warned about that on the first day and I learned alot because there was so much out of class learning that had to go on to complete the assignments. Some of the code reading questions felt a little unnecessary though and it was difficult to correct wrong answers if you didn't ask a TA where to look in the code base for the correct one.

The assignments need to be possible. Not impossible. I want to feel I accomplished something in this class, for example; actually able to do assignment 2 and finish it. Doing these hard assignments will only discourage students. I felt very discourage when I was not able to finish assignment 2.

This class is impossible but Geoff Challen at least makes it sufferable. Excellent, enthusiastic, and helpful professor with high standards for his students.

It was fun. Easy to pass, hard to ace. If your partner dropped he was very accommodating.

GWA is awesome

Demanding workload, and almost impossible to finish all the implementation tasks along with work and other classes. Poor workload balance. Tests were fair, code reading questions are good, and though we're still waiting on a grade, the design docs seem good. Jing Hao (sp?) and Guru are fantastic. Lectures were excellent and insightful. Thanks for a great semester!

i like OS and have learned much thing, but due to my poor English listening i couldn't catch up what the instrcutor was saying(actualy for international student is little fast)

Tests were fair, based on what was taught and covered in class. However, I felt as though what I learned in class only touched the surface of what was needed to be known for the project assignments.

I wish I had less coursework from other classes so that I could have put more effort into this class, but as far as feedback I would suggest even making a deadline for the first two assignments before assignment two so that people are forced to not fall behind, because everyone underestimated assignment 2.

Awesome instructor. Wish there were a few more graded assignments other than the exams, but in all honesty it's that that pushed me to study harder and do better in the course. Overall, I really enjoyed the class!

I enjoyed the class. I learned a lot about Operating Systems, VM, Filesystems, Synchronization primitives - and put knowledge of these subjects to use. This was probably the best class I have taken at UB.

The only reason I rate this course good is because of the ridiculous grading of it. My partner and I put 40 plus hours of work into an assignment worth 9% of our grade and received a 0%. Even though we had code for each part of the assignment there was no partial credit at all. Not much of a learning experience, or at least to do decent in the class you must not make mistakes. From what I've learned from very successful software engineers is that in industry there are always mistakes made. I guess the way I felt is if there is one possible mistake with the grading script then you can come very close to failing the course. The worst of it is the lectures of this class were amazing, go figure finally find a teacher I loved going to class but am probably going to have to retake it. Which means I have recommended all friends who wish

to not kill their averages (which unfortunately is a very important part of getting a job) to be wary, it may not be worth your time.

Projects are ridiculous.

Workload is terrible. I did not have time to finish the assignments.

Learned more in this class than I did in any other course! Just be sure you have a dedicated partner to work with and the time to put in for this class.

Very nice and helpful course.

First time I've actually liked a computer science class

The one complaint I have about this class is the time given to take the midterm. I thought the test was fair but that it would require ~50 minutes. We didn't start the exam until at least 5 minutes after the class had begun, there were a few interruptions and we were told a few times at about 42 minutes into the class that if we didn't get on line to hand in the exam very very soon, we wouldn't be able to hand it in. I was forced to rush the exam. Maybe the exam was meant to be taken in less than 50 minutes and I just needed to be more focused. Other than that, the class was excellent.

Great professor!

Geoff was a great teacher and kept the lectures interesting most of the time. The workload was excessive at times but because of that I learned a lot. Although the amount of work took away a lot of time from other classes because I spent upwards of 25+ hours a week coding for this class

most engaging class in cse. I wish I had more interest in the material and time/maturity to complete the projects. I would like to retake this class at some point to truly get the most out of it.

HARD!

The class challenging but rewarding however I would prefer a separate class for undergrads with a more refined curriculum

Difficult to do well on assignment 3 if you did not ace assignment 2. Seems pointless to have opportunities to resubmit assignments if it takes a month+ to have the first submission graded. Class was very challenging.

This was by far the best CSE course I have ever taken at UB. Geoff is really excited to teach the class, something rare I've seen at UB. I know we're a research institution, but without proper instruction how can students do research? I learned more about Computer Science in this class than most of my semesters at UB combined. This material is essential and I'm glad I took this class as a Junior, and almost wish I took it as a sophomore. Core concepts like bash and git were introduced, something I use every day as a Software Engineer at work. Geoff's class brings essential Software Engineering concepts to the UB CSE course set. I'd love to see more courses at UB mimic the layout of this course. Yes, it's a lot of work, and I know many people that take OS in the fall for this reason. But you learn a lot and it's well worth it. Class is informative and enjoyable to attend, with the added bonus of taped lectures/recitations available if needed - a great plus if you're sick or going on vacation before breaks etc. All that being said, there is one thing I'd change. In terms of "hours per point," I think the code reading & design docs should be worth significantly less than the implementation. Granted - they are both important - as they force you to read through the source code and think before you code - but one spends an order of magnitude more time on implementation, and I think that should carry an appropriate reward if successful.

Grading takes forever. Project completion is very difficult with any type of minor workload from other classes piled on.

Course lectures and exams were fine. The project was way too hard, and I feel like not enough background information was given to make the project a realistic possibility.

I thought the course was awesome, but I wish there was a little more tie in of the projects in class (ASST3 was pretty hard - I wish we were given a little bit more help with it in class).

Perfect class but I dislike partner work I always get stuck carrying dead weight and this semester whenever I forced my partner to do something I ended up with poor grades

CSE521LEC - Operating Systems

Instructor Geoffrey Challen

Term	Spring 2014	Class	23635 #	Section	000	Type	Lecture	Enrollment	75	Response Rate	96.0%
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course load too heavy

Best class I have ever taken!

The best course I have taken since joining UB.

Dr. Challan is certainly one of the best professor at UB and his should should be taken by everyone. It is a tough course, still a must course.

The amount of both theory and application covered in the class, taken together, was way too much for me to absorb during the semester, especially alongside my other classes. In retrospect, I would have liked to take this class by itself during a semester, as I felt there was enough material to fully occupy me working on it alone full-time. Overall, I gained an amazing amount of knowledge and useful experience from the class. Maybe setting separate deadlines for each of the programming assignments would help to force students to pace their progress more evenly. The extra TA office hours were very helpful, and they were extremely patient. Thanks!

The best course I'd learnt in UB.

Best OS course.

This is the best course I took at the University at Buffalo. The course is very demanding and requires innovation. A great learning experience. I am driven to take up a PhD in Computer Science at a later point. Such is the impact of this course on me.

Partnering is fun and required but the grading policy should have been little more clear on rewarding each partner for his/her work.

Second putting hard deadlines discourages those who want to work after they fall behind. Instead there should have been partial credit for those completing the assignments late.

Many students had a problem regarding late grading of code reading questions and design document. Although I really appreciate the work done by the TAs and the Ninjas, I feel this is an area which can be improved. The decision to play songs before class was a masterstroke. Really built up nicely for the lecture. And the professor was awesome in whatever he taught. Every lecture that I attended, there was hardly any need for revision as the concepts were made really clear in class itself

The best professor ever :)

One of the coolest professors I have every seen! Carry on the good work, Geoff!

Among the best courses I have ever taken. For a subject that could potentially get pretty drab and difficult to understand, Geoff made it highly engaging (and great fun) from start to end. The TAs were an amazing bunch.

Just wish the code reading questions were graded quicker. But I understand the limitations with just 3 TAs. I hope they allot more TAs next semester. Now that that's out of the way, these are the most committed course staff that I have ever seen. The professor, the TAs were absolutely terrific and the extra office hours and recitations were extremely helpful. Overall, This is the best course that I have taken at UB!

This is the most excellent and challenging course I have taken in UB. However, I suggest that students should be able to submit the code reading answer for second time even if the first submit has been graded.

Best Professor ever ! A must - take course . Learnt a lot. TAs were helpful. Assignments were tough but helpful. Hats off Geoffrey Challen !!

Assignments are awesome and at the same time super hectic. Can be offered in fall by Geoff so that graduate students will have a chance to take it in their last semester as they just have 2 courses remaining. And regarding the exams there was chaotic situation while we were video taped in the end while submitting papers which I feel is unnecessary. And I Dont understand this exam incentive concept for feedback. Really??!! Is it not against academic integrity? Apart from these two, the classes and assignments are super awesome...!

Overall I would say this is the best class which I have ever taken and will continue to recommend to my juniors too. Wishing best of luck to continue the same till the end.

The professor has great knowledge. Very nice with students, clear all doubts. The TA's and ninja's assigned for this course are very helpful. This is the only course which offers lot of TA hours. The projects are excellently designed. The exams require good thinking ability same for the projects also. This is the best course I had in my MS , the best professor and best TA's too.

Awesome prof! amazing TA's. This is certainly the best course offered.

Very good course helped me generate an interest in OS again after my bachelors

Lectures are enjoyable, kept me laughing. Projects are hard but a lot of help is provided, but I feel like a lot of people aren't prepared for the amount of coding required after taking cse250. The deadlines seemed fair as well

Best course yet

I would recommend every Computer Science student to take this class. The standards are very high in this class

Tough one! Assignments are killer! Take other courses wisely(i.e. go for lighter ones) if you are going for this class.

The Projects (The last two phases) are tough!!! But it is an excellent course.

a brilliant course and an amazing instructor. Recommend anyone studying in UB to take Operating Systems under Geoffrey Challen

A very interesting course. Learnt many new things. The professor and TAs are very helpful.

It was an awesome experience. The projects were the best part. Geoff is totally awesome but strict. ;P

It was a great class. I felt the time frame for project 3 was less. If this can be improved people will enjoy the course even more.

Geoff makes the material incredibly easy to learn. He teaches well and makes sure students understand the material. However, the projects are brutal and tough. Must put a lot of time into them but it is worthwhile.

One of the best courses I have taken at UB.

It was a more of a undergrad course than a grad level course. But a really good undergrad course.

Understanding the lectures through recordings was great and I felt that there were times when I couldn't grasp as much in the class. Instead of using the mic for recording, using it both for recording and amplification would be a good idea..

It is a great course but stressful

Please do not keep such flexible deadlines. I feel bad to admit this but none of us give projects time until the last week because there is always something else to do.

It would be great if you make the programming assignments to be a individual persons work. That gives fear which is

perfect motivation to get started.

I wish I had not taken any other heavy course! This is the best course offered at UB for CS.

Give more extensions on Deadlines :), its a request.

Best course at UB!

The best course in CSE department. Stimulating projects and fun lectures.
