CS 310 Introduction to Computer Systems
Syllabus, Fall 2015

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Classroom: Blocker 12
Meeting time: TU 6pm - 9pm
Office hours: MW 12pm - 1pm, M 3:45pm – 6pm, TU 4pm – 6pm, or by appointment

Catalog description: Introduces the basic concepts of computer organization and assembly language. Specific topics include CPU and memory organization, machine language, addressing techniques, macros, program segmentation and linkage, and assembler construction. Prerequisite: CS 212 or consent.


Course goals:
1. To learn the fundamental knowledge on computer architectures.
2. To learn the assembly language with Intel IA-32 processor family includes directives, addressing, macros, operators, and program structure.
3. To understand the computer hardware manipulation and interaction between assembly language programs, the operating systems, and other application programs.

Teaching:
1. Classroom lecturing on programming theory, techniques and principles.
2. Lab on programming being integrated with classroom teaching.
3. A few of lectures and tests being conducted electronically (through BlackBoard)

Evaluation:
1. There will be about 10 programming assignments.
2. There will be two tests and a final comprehensive exam. There may be mini-tests and quizzes if needed. NO MAKE-UP tests will be given. Please do NOT try to take it early or late also, especially the final exam.

Grading strategies:
1. Assignments, quizzes, and participation have a weight of 35%.
2. Tests have a weight of 35%.
3. The final exam has a weight of 30%.
The final score will be calculated as a percentage of points earned versus total points possible, with the final letter grade being assigned according to the scale as follows:

A (93 or above)    A- (90 – 92)
B+ (87 – 89)       B- (80 – 82)
B+ (87 – 89)       B- (80 – 82)
C+ (77 – 79)       C (73 – 76)
C+ (77 – 79)       C (73 – 76)
D+ (67 – 69)       D (63 – 66)
D+ (67 – 69)       D (63 – 66)
F (59 or less)

Attendance policy: Attendance is required. Absence will be excused only at the discretion of the instructor. A maximum of four absences will be excused. Excessive absence will reduce your grade one letter for each absence in excess of four.

Virginia Wesleyan College is committed to giving all students the opportunity of academic success. If you are a student who is requesting accommodations based on the academic impact of a disability, speak to me about your accommodations letter and your specific needs. If you do not have an accommodation letter for this course, you will need to visit or call for an appointment with Disability Support Specialist Crit Muniz at (757) 233-8898 or by email at nmuniz@vwc.edu to coordinate reasonable accommodations. He is located in the Learning Center, Clarke Hall.

Course outline:

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Test 1: Tuesday, September 29
Test 2A: Tuesday, October 27
Test 2B: Tuesday, November 17
Final Exam: Tue., December 8, 6pm - 8:30pm