

Syllabus

Instructor

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Teaching Assistant

TDB

Date & Time & Place

Mondays, 4:30pm–7:10pm, Innovation Hall 133

Course Web Page

The course web page will contain the latest announcements, handouts, assignments, source code and useful/interesting web links.

The web page is accessible via <http://ece.gmu.edu/~jkaps/courses/ece511>

Textbooks

- John Hennessy and David Patterson, *Computer Architecture: A Quantitative Approach* by Morgan Kauffman; 4th edition, 2006, ISBN: 978-0-12-370490-0.

You can find links to more interesting books on the class home page.

Prerequisite

Undergraduate knowledge of microprocessors and computer organization.

Office Hours

Please check the class web page for the current office hour schedule. You should feel free to approach Dr. Kaps and the TA at any time if you need help in addition to the scheduled sessions. The best way to contact us is via email.

Homework

There will be about four homework assignments. These will include questions, and programming exercises. Homework must be handed in on time. If you can't make it to the class, please e-mail it to the TA. Homework handed in after solutions are posted will receive zero credit.

Project

An important part of this course is the semester project. The project consists of several assembly programming exercises for the MSP430 microcontroller. These projects will emphasize the instruction set architecture differences between a microcontroller and the Intel and MIPS microprocessors discussed in class.

Examinations

There will be two exams during the course, a midterm exam and a final exam. The midterm exam will be closed books and closed notes, the final exam will be open book and open notes. The questions will range from mild to difficult.

- **Midterm Exam:** October 21st
- **Final Exam:** December 16th

Grading

The following weight distribution will be used to calculate the final grade:

- 10% Homework
- 30% Project
- 30% Midterm Examination
- 30% Final Examination

Schedule

Please visit the class webpage for the most up-to-date schedule.