

# Syllabus

**Instructor**

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**Date & Time & Place**

Tuesdays, 4:30pm– 7:10pm, Planetary Hall 120

**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 Kaufman; 5th edition, 2011, ISBN: 978-0123838728.

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

**Prerequisite**

Undergraduate knowledge of microprocessors and computer organization.

**Office Hours**

Tuesday 2:30pm–3:30pm, Thursday 10:00am–11:00am, Engineering Building 3222 or by appointment.

**Homework**

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

**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

## **Project**

An important part of this course is the semester project. This semester the project will focus on the MSP430 microcontroller. Each project will be completed in groups of up to four students. Each group will propose a project that uses the TI MSP430 LaunchPad and additional peripherals such as sensors, keypads, displays, etc. Towards the end of the semester, you will be required to perform a final presentation of your project.

- **Project Proposal Due:** September 16th
- **1st Progress Report:** October 7th
- **2nd Progress Report:** November 11th
- **Final Report:** December 2nd
- **Presentation:** December 9th

## **Grading**

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

- 10% Homework
- 35% Project
- 25% Midterm Examination
- 30% Final Examination

## **Schedule**

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

## **Honor Code**

All rules of the GMU Honor Code system will be in effect. You must review the rules and be familiar with them. You are encouraged to discuss homework problems and projects with other students and/or obtain the assistance of the instructor. Nevertheless, you must write down your own homework solutions which represent your understanding of the material. Projects must be completed by each group individually. No part of a project submission can be copied from another group of the class or any other source. Duplicating someone else's work such as but not limited to homework solutions, hard-ware/software designs, diagrams, source code, project reports, and exam notes, is considered cheating. If you use material from other sources such as but not limited to the web, books, journals, data sheets, etc. you must reference the source. Honor code violations will be followed up with full force.

## **Classroom Etiquette**

Cellphones, pagers have to be put into silent mode. If you have an emergency need to answer a call please quietly leave the room BEFORE answering the call. Lectures may not be recorded without express written permission from the instructor.

## **Students with Disabilities**

If you need special assistance, please inform the instructor within the first 3 weeks of classes so that we can work something out.