

**CSE 6324: Advanced Topics in Software Engineering**  
Fall 2014

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**Office Hours:** 9:30 – 11:00am, Tue and Thu

**Section Information:** CSE 6324 Section 001

**Time and Place of Class Meetings:** 12:30pm – 1:50pm, Tue and Thu, ERB 129

**Description of Course Content:**

Recent years have seen a proliferation of concurrent software systems. Allowing multiple threads/processes to execute simultaneously increases resource utilization and leads to improved computing efficiency. However, concurrent software systems are inherently nondeterministic. As a result, it is notoriously difficult to build these systems and ensure their correctness.

The focus of this course is on the construction of concurrent software systems with high assurance. The topics covered by this course can be divided into two parts. The first part highlights basic concepts, principles, and techniques that are underlying the design, development, debugging, and testing of concurrent software systems. The second part provides an introduction to formal methods in modeling, specification and verification of concurrent software systems.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

- A solid understanding about the basic concepts, principles, and techniques of concurrent programming.
- A solid understanding about a set of classic synchronization problems as well as their solutions.
- Ability to analyze, design, implement, and test concurrent code for solving common synchronization problems.
- A broad view about the latest development in design, analysis and verification of concurrent programs.

**Requirements:**

Basic understanding about software engineering and operating systems. Moderate proficiency in Java programming.

**Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:**

Textbook:

Richard H. Carver and Kuo-Chung Tai, Modern Multithreading, John Wiley & Sons, 2005, ISBN: 0-471-72504-8

Reference:

Maurice Herlihy, The Art of Multiprocessor Programming, Morgan Kaufmann, 2008, ISBN: 0-123-70591-6

Robin Milner, Communication and Concurrency, Prentice Hall, 1989, ISBN: 0-13-115007-3

### **Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:**

There will be several (about 5) homework assignments, a midterm exam, and a team project. The project will be a survey project that will survey the literature on a concurrency-related topic, or a programming project that will apply the techniques covered in this course to build a software application that demonstrates a significant degree of concurrency.

**Attendance:** There will be two types of class meetings, including regular lectures (i.e., lectures given by the instructor), and project presentations. Attendance for regular lectures is strongly encouraged. Attendance for project presentations is required. *The instructor reserves the right to change this policy as needed.*

### **Grading:**

Tentatively, the final grade will be determined according to the following percentages:

Homework Assignments - 20%

Midterm Exam - 50%

Project - 30%

**Make-up Exams:** No make-up exams will be given.

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Title IX:** The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law "Title IX" such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, [which is located \[insert a description of the nearest exit/emergency exit\]](#). When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

**Student Support Services:** UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall),

call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**Writing Center:** The Writing Center, 411 Central Library, offers individual 40 minute sessions to review assignments, Quick Hits (5-10 minute quick answers to questions), and workshops on grammar and specific writing projects. Visit <https://uta.mywconline.com/> to register and make appointments. For hours, information about the writing workshops we offer, scheduling a classroom visit, and descriptions of the services we offer undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty members, please visit our website at [www.uta.edu/owl/](http://www.uta.edu/owl/).

### Course Schedule

The following table shows the major topics that will be covered as well as the estimated number of lectures for each topic. These topics will be covered in the order as they appear in the table. The rest of the class meetings will be given to project presentations.

*The instructor reserves the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course.*

Topics	# of Lectures
Syllabus	1
Introduction	2
Java Threads	1
Critical Section	1 ~ 2
Replay Shared Variables	1
Semaphore and Lock	2 ~ 3
Replay Semaphore and Lock	1
Advanced Locking	1 ~ 2
Monitor	3
Replay Monitor	1
Message Passing	1 ~ 2
Race Analysis	1
Midterm	1
Testing	1
CCS	2