SYLLABUS
(Fall 2024)
Course: CIT 310 Systems Architecture I
Faculty: Barry Phelps

Course Catalog Description

Introduction to applied technology and computer architecture. Emphasis will be on hardware specification and selection, troubleshooting, maintenance, and optimizing system performance.

Topics and Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student shall be able to:	How the student will develop outcomes	How the student will be assessed the learning on these learning outcomes
Identify the various parts inside a desktop computer case and describe how they connect together and are compatible	Readings, Labs, Quizzes, Exams	Labs, Quizzes, Exams
Explain the special considerations when supporting laptop computers that are different than supporting desktop computers	Readings, Labs, Quizzes, Exams	Labs, Quizzes, Exams
Describe and contrast various types and features of motherboards	Readings, Labs, Quizzes, Exams	Labs, Quizzes, Exams
Compare the characteristics and purposes of Intel and AMD processors used for personal computers	Readings, Labs, Quizzes, Exams	Labs, Quizzes, Exams

Upon completion of this course, the student shall be able to:	How the student will develop outcomes	How the student will be assessed the learning on these learning outcomes
Describe the methods and devices for keeping a system cool	Readings, Labs, Quizzes, Exams	Labs, Quizzes, Exams
Discuss technologies used inside a hard drive and how a computer communicates with a hard drive	Readings, Labs, Quizzes, Exams	Labs, Quizzes, Exams
Describe the general approach technicians use to install and support I/O devices	Readings, Labs, Quizzes, Exams	Labs, Quizzes, Exams
Explain the TCP/IP protocols and standards Windows uses for networking	Readings, Labs, Quizzes, Exams	Labs, Quizzes, Exams
Define Personal Area Network (PAN) and note some examples	Readings, Labs, Quizzes, Exams	Labs, Quizzes, Exams
Discuss printer types and features	Readings, Labs, Quizzes, Exams	Labs, Quizzes, Exams

Welcome!

Welcome to CIT 310 – Systems Architecture I. My name is Barry Phelps and I am anticipating a rewarding, fun experience for all of us with the primary focus being that you have an opportunity to learn about system architecture.

Class Location/Times

- **This class is delivered in online format.**

Class Expectations

- Students are expected to read the scheduled week topics/materials from Monday to Friday.
- Students are expected to answer their weekly assignments on time.
- Students are expected to have access to reliable Internet connections. The class is available at the following websites:
  https://blackboard.wku.edu

Required Material(s)-
Please DO NOT WAIT to Obtain These
Materials! We will start working day one!

Software: (Required)

- Test Out: PC Pro LabSim by Testout.
    - Publisher: Test Out
    - Language: English
    - ISBN: 978-1-935080-42-8
    - You can purchase this through the Bookstore or TestOut website.
      Once you purchase it, then join the class by searching for the instructor's name:
      Barry Phelps
      Then, make sure that you choose the following course:
      CIT310-700(Fa24):Systems Architecture I
      In case you need help read the setting up software in the START HERE folder

Instructor Information
Name: Barry Phelps
Email: Barry.Phelps@wku.edu
Office Phone: 270-860-7311
My office hours are online or by phone M/&T 8-noon

Electronic Communication
The best way to communicate in this class is through email:

- All communications should be done through your WKU email or in the course messaging system. No personal email, please.
- For a prompt response, type the **CIT 310** in the subject line of the email. E-mail labeled in this manner receives higher priority.
- Give me at most 24 to 48 hours to respond to your email.
- Note that if you try to contact me late on Friday, you will likely not get a response until late Sunday or Monday.

Class announcements other than those published on the class schedule are done through email, please check your email regularly! YOU are responsible for all emails sent to your University account. Check your email often!

Assignments & Point Values
Your grade for this course will be determined according to the following scheme:

Activities	Points Possible
Labs Assignments and Quizzes	49%
Research Papers	20%
Discussion	5%
Email Assignment	1
Final Exam	25%

The grading scale that will be used is:

- A = 90 – 100%
- B = 80 – 89%
- C = 70 – 79%
- D = 60 – 69%
- F = 0 – 59%

Please see the Course Master Schedule in the Start Here section of Blackboard for more details.

Please be sure to review your grades right away; corrections will not be made more than seven days after the initial grade is posted.

Assignment Submission
- All work submitted by students must follow the assignment guidelines or points will be deducted.
- Quiz, labs and exam assignments must be submitted online via Blackboard and TestOut.
- Any student found cheating or copying from another student's work, or found to have plagiarized from other material (or using any materials for an assignment not completed by that student) will receive a grade of 0 for the assignment in question, and may face further disciplinary action according to university policy

Academic Dates
To determine important academic dates such as the last day to drop with a W, or the final exam schedule, please see http://www.wku.edu/registrar/academic_calendars/

Activities
There are four major activities in this course. A brief explanation of each activity is as follows:
- Lab Assignments – You will complete weekly assigned readings and Labs.

- Complete Quizzes over Chapters read.
- Participate in the class Discuession
- Final Exam – The proctored final exams will be comprehensive and administered as scheduled by the university.

Final Exams

All CIT exams must be proctored. The final exam will be in the classroom during the final exam week.

As the final exam is an assessment and not a learning activity, correct answers are not provided.

Also, since the final exam is an assessment, your score will likely be lower than you have previously experienced with the learning activities. Therefore, after completing the exam, your overall average will likely go down, not up. This means you need to be sure and complete all of the learning activities as assigned in order to have a very high average before taking the final.

Instructor Feedback

In general, I will post weekly grades no later than the Wednesday following the end of the class week. I tend to comment little if you are doing well (>80%) and comment more if you are not (< 80%). However, at any time if you have questions about any comments and/or grades, please contact me within three or four days at most while the issues are still fresh in both our minds. This will help to iron any issues out as soon as possible.

In the event a Blackboard grading rubric is used, that is your feedback. Again, if you have additional questions, contact me as soon as possible.

Also, if I mistakenly note you as missing any assignments and you did submit them, please immediately let me know the time and date you posted. I will be very, very happy to download the post and correct my records. I will not make changes to grades after one week of posting.

Non-Graded Assignments

Some activities that you will complete during the course are ungraded or carry no point value (like reading assignments). However, it is very important that you complete these activities. Non-completion of these activities may negatively impact your graded work.

Incompletes

All incomplete requests must follow school guidelines. See the University catalog.

Extra Credit

There is no extra credit or make-up work as the class assignments reflect what is required for successful completion of this course.

Academic Standards

I expect all students to support the same respect for individuals, commitment to issue and problem resolution, and open communication and feedback as in any learning environment.

Specifically, all students are expected to:

- Accept responsibility and accountability for all use actions and content posted to any online classroom, public meeting, or personal inbox (email).
- Maintain the same ethical standards expected in a collaborative, academic environment.
- Demonstrate respect for all faculty, students, and staff regardless of age, race, gender, religion, national origin, veteran's status, disability, or sexual orientation.

Honesty

I highly value academic honesty. A student must always submit work that represents his or her original words or ideas. If any words or ideas are used that do not represent the student's original words or ideas, then the student must cite all relevant sources. The student should also make it clear the extent to which such sources are used.

Words or ideas that require citation include, but are not limited to, all hardcopy or electronic publications, whether copyrighted or not and all verbal or visual communication when the content of such communication clearly originates from an identifiable source.

All submissions to any public meeting or private mailbox fall within the scope of words and ideas that require citations if used by someone other than the original author.

Academic dishonesty in an Online learning environment could involve the following:

- Having a tutor or friend complete a portion of your assignments
- Having a reviewer make extensive revisions to an assignment
- Copying work submitted by another student to a public class meeting
- Using information from on-line information services without proper citation

Any of these practices could result in charges of academic dishonesty. Sanctions range from failing assignments or class grades to expulsion.

I consider academic honesty a very serious issue. I will fail students that I discover are not adhering to the above guidelines.

Class Navigation
Go to https://wku.blackboard.com/ and follow the login instructions (usually available by the first day of class). This site will be the primary means for quizzes, grades, announcements, exam and homework scores, reading materials, discussions, and other supplemental course information that you will need. Please be sure and check this site regularly.

Computer Access
This class requires each student to make use of several software packages, various other software tools and the Internet. All required resources are available either in the general Student Computer Labs across campus, on WKU Extended campuses, and typically, at public libraries. Lack of hardware, software and Internet connectivity at home to complete any assignment is not an acceptable reason for not completing work. You may work from any location you prefer (home, work, etc…), but you will need access to MS Office software.

Technology Issues
School servers are unavailable from time-to-time. Accordingly, I will accept e-mailed assignments to my personal mailbox for time-stamping purposes only. However, once Blackboard is available to you, in order to receive a grade, the assignment must be posted to the appropriate submission area.

Also, from time to time the Blackboard system will lock-up during a quiz or exam. If this happens, please contact me as soon as possible. I can only reset the exam, which means you will have to take it over (this includes final exams). If you wait until the last minute to take an exam, you may not be able to reset due to time limitations.

For comments/complaints about technology issues (for example, Blackboard exam problems), please contact the Office of the Chief Information Technology Officer (270745-2243).

Late Assignments
Due to the nature of this course and based upon my teaching experience, it is critical that you are timely in submitting the assignments. S**ince all assignments are made available before they are due**, no late work will be accepted for any reason. Again, no late work will be accepted for any reason. Please do not wait until the last minute to do your assignments; no late work will be accepted for any reason.

Cancellations
If you are dropped for any reason (lack of payment, etc.), your access to Blackboard may be terminated. In this event, you will **NOT** be permitted to make up on-line course assignments/activities during the time you lost access to Blackboard.

Grievance Process
If you are unhappy with any aspect of the course, please contact me via email with a detailed explanation of the problem. I will do my best to help resolve the issue. If you are still unsatisfied, please contact the program coordinator, Dr. Mark Revels, at mark.revels@wku.edu.

Schedule Exceptions
I will not approve any schedule exceptions.

Title IX Misconduct/Assault Statement
Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff, and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf.

Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121.

Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and **MUST** report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

ADA Accommodation Statement

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-7455004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu . Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

ChatGPT & Generative AI Statement

See Syllabus Information | Western Kentucky University (wku.edu)

Instructor reserves the right to change syllabus as needed during the course