

Course Information

Computer Science 3305B - Operating Systems
Winter Term 2026
Computer Science Department, Western University

Course Topics

This course presents fundamental concepts related to the design and implementation of operating systems. Topics includes intro to the computer operating system, basic operating system structure, process fundamentals, inter-process communications, signals, system calls, process scheduling, process and thread synchronization and concurrency, memory basics, memory management, file systems and storage servers, and if time permits a few "hot" topics.

Calendar Description

Survey of major operating systems; interprocess communication; multi-tasking; scheduling; memory management; performance and measurement issues; trade-offs in operating system design; concurrency and deadlock.

Antirequisite(s): Software Engineering 3313A/B.

Prerequisite(s): Either (Computer Science 2208A/B and Computer Science 2211A/B) or (the former Computer Science 2101A/B and Computer Science 2208A/B) or (Computer Science 2210A/B, Computer Science 2211A/B, ECE 3375A/B, and registration in the fourth year of a BESC program in Computer Engineering or Mechatronic Systems Engineering.)

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean's Designate (Department/Program Counsellors and Science Academic Counselling) to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Instructor

Will Beldman (Instructor and Course coordinator)

Office: <https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/4311561924>

Office Hours: Friday 10:30 - 11:30am

E-Mail: wbeldman@uwo.ca

TBD (TA)

Office:

Office Hours:

E-Mail:

Teaching Assistant Consulting

Questions regarding assignments or lecture materials can be directed to a Teaching Assistant (TA) first. Questions requiring further information can be dealt with by contacting the course instructor.

Email contact

Occasionally email messages may be sent to the entire class or to students individually. Email will be sent to your UWO email address as assigned to you by Western Technology Services (WTS). It is your responsibility to read this email on a frequent and regular basis.

You should note that email at the university and through other providers have quotas or limits on the amount of space that is dedicated to each account. Unchecked email may accumulate beyond those limits and you may be unable to retrieve important messages from the university. Losing email is not an acceptable excuse for not knowing about the information that was sent.

Email contact with the course instructor is encouraged, and I endeavour to reply to messages within 24 hours between Monday and Friday and within 48 hours on Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

Students can ask questions via email, however if there are any large, somewhat complicated issues, it is recommended to discuss them during office hours. You **must** use your UWO account in order to write to the course email for security and privacy reasons.

NOTE: In the subject line, please include [3305] and include a title or topic description of the contents of the email in the subject line and send e-mails from your @uwo.ca e-mail account. The instructor will be unable to respond to questions about your personal grades, assignment, etc. if they are not sent via a known @uwo.ca e-mail account for security and privacy reasons.

For example, please ensure your e-mails look like this:

From: Student Name <sname123@uwo.ca>
Subject: [3305] Assignment 3: Question about threads

and not like this:

From: Crazy ALIAS name <super+crazy_email@weirddomain.tv>
Subject: RE: RE: FWD: re: Subject FW: Bunch O' Questions

Course Schedule

Lecture Times

- Monday 12:30pm - 1:30pm
- Wednesday 11:30am - 1:30pm

Consult the Course Map in OWL for a list of topics and important dates

Lectures

This course is in person as required by the University. Accompanying course slides will be provided prior to the lecture.

In the event that a lecture requires a delivery change to "asynchronous", the lecture will consist of videos and accompanying course slides.

Course Materials

Suggested Textbook

A. Silberschatz, P. Galvin, and G. Gagne Operating System Concepts (Tenth Edition), John Wiley & Sons. Inc, May 2018; ISBN: 978-1119456339 (~\$100)

Lecture Aids

High level notes and graphics will **guide** the lectures and will be made available on OWL. In order to be successful, students are expected to maintain their own sets of notes.

Other material

Sample code demonstrating concepts may occasionally be made available on OWL

Course Web Page

All course material will be posted to OWL: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/>

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<https://westernu.brightspace.com/>) regularly for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace Help page](#). Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

Online conduct

For any class content not delivered in person, the content may be recorded. The data captured during these recordings may include your image, voice recordings, chat logs and personal identifiers (name displayed on the screen). The recordings will be used for educational purposes related to this course, including evaluations. The recordings may be disclosed to other individuals participating in the course for their private or group study purposes. Please contact the instructor if you have any concerns related to session recordings.

If you are participating in a Zoom session, you should enable audio and video both at the beginning and the end of the session, but please leave your **audio muted** and **video**

turned off if you are not speaking. Unnecessary audio/video uses up computing resources, bandwidth, distracts from the conversation.

For any online interaction related to this course (Zoom or otherwise), as one should with any online interaction, please conduct your self with maturity and responsibility.

Computing facilities

Each student will be given an account on the Computer Science Department senior undergraduate computing facility, GAUL. GAUL accounts are automatically created, normally within 24 hours, after enrollment and the username/password would be the same as your UWO email account. If a student is able to log into his/her UWO email, but is unable to log into the GAUL systems after 3 days of enrollment, please submit a ticket. with Science Technology Services at <https://helpdesk.sci.uwo.ca>. In accepting the GAUL account, a student agrees to abide by the computer science department's *Rules of Ethical Conduct*.

Access to GAUL is **REQUIRED** to complete this course. You are welcome to work on assignments on your own Unix/Linux environment if you wish but everything you submit must work on GAUL.

Time zone and Scheduling of Course Components

All times listed in this document and on the OWL course site are assumed to be in Eastern Time (the local time of the Western University campus) unless otherwise stated. Quizzes and exams will be scheduled for the Eastern Time Zone. Students must ensure they are available during these times even if they are located outside of Ontario. No alternative deadlines, quiz dates/times, or exam dates/times will be offered for students outside of the Eastern Time Zone.

Student Evaluation

Element	Weight
5 Programming Assignments	30%
1 Midterm Exam	15%
10 (out of 11) Quizzes	10%
Final Exam	45%
<u>Course Grade</u>	<u>100%</u>

Bonus: One late penalty reversed (All students)	+1.5%
---	-------

To be eligible to obtain a 50% in the course, the weighted midterm and final exam grade must be 40% or higher AND the weighted assignment average must be 40% or higher.

and

To be eligible to obtain a 60% in the course, the weighted midterm and final exam grade must be 50% or higher AND the weighted assignment average must be 50% or higher.

and

There will be no exceptions or waiving of this requirement for any reason or circumstance.

General information about missed coursework

Students must familiarize themselves with the *University Policy on Academic Consideration - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs* posted on the Academic Calendar:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

This policy does not apply to requests for Academic Consideration submitted for **attempted or completed work**, whether online or in person.

The policy also does not apply to students experiencing longer-term impacts on their academic responsibilities. These students should consult [Accessible Education](#).

For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar's webpage:

https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/

All requests for Academic Consideration must be made within 48 hours after the assessment date or submission deadline.

Assignments

Students are expected to view the lecture materials and complete the online exercises to prepare for the assignments. Once the assignment is completed, all parts of the assignment must be submitted to OWL. It is the **student's responsibility** to ensure that all parts of each assignment are correctly uploaded and submitted in OWL, to ensure that the assignment can be marked accordingly.

All **assignments** are individual assignments. You may discuss approaches to problems among yourselves; however, the actual details of the work (assignment coding, answers to concept questions, etc.) must be an individual effort. Borrowed work must be properly cited. All assignments will be subject to both content and metadata plagiarism analysis.

Note: Assignments emailed to the instructor or teaching assistant **will not** be accepted, unless there are extenuating circumstances and prior approval from the instructor.

The following is the tentative assignment schedule (subject to change):

Assignment	Weight	Due Date (by 11:55 PM)
1	6%	January 27th, 2026
2	6%	February 24th, 2026
3	6%	March 10th, 2026
4	6%	March 24th, 2026
5	6%	April 7th, 2026

The due dates of the assignments are shown in the table above. Please note that all these dates are tentative. The due dates will be confirmed when the assignments are posted on OWL. The dates will coincide with the class progression on subsequent topics.

If for any reason the assignment schedule given above cannot be adhered to, the assignment marks will be pro-rated. The five (5) assignments are worth 30% of the overall mark for the course. If an assignment must be cancelled for any reason, the remaining assignment weights will be prorated to add up to 30%.

Assignment Marking:

- Assignments will be marked by a TA within 2 weeks of the assignment due date where possible.
- Individual marks and a detailed marking scheme will be posted on the OWL site once marks are returned.

- Questions regarding the marking of assignments should first be directed to the teaching assistant that graded your assignment and then the course instructor assigned to your section if your discussion with the teaching assistant was not satisfactory.
- Requests for mark adjustments will only be considered if they are made within **1 week** of receiving the assignment mark and have been first discussed with the teaching assistant who marked the assignment. **Assignment marks will be final after that date.**
- Requests for mark adjustments will only be considered when they are for adjustments of **5 marks or greater.**

Late Policy for Assignments

It is expected that students budget enough time to properly submit their assignments via OWL and allow for any unforeseen technological issues. 11:55 PM is a **hard deadline** and no extensions or relief will be given for assignments that just miss this deadline or miss the deadline due to technical issues. Students are expected to regularly backup their assignments and submit well before any deadline.

- Assignments will be accepted only up to two (2) days late.
- Assignments submitted after 11:55 PM on the due date but before 11:55 PM on the day after the posted due date will be **deducted 10% of the total grade.**
- Assignments submitted after 11:55 PM on the day after the due date but before 11:55 PM on the next day will be **deducted 25% of the total grade.**
- Assignments submitted after 11:55 PM on the next day after the posted assignment due date will receive a grade of zero (0).
- Late assignments will have a penalty of **10% or 25% of the maximum mark** for the assignment deducted based on time of submission as listed in OWL. Thus, if a student would have received 90% on an assignment based on 100%, but it was submitted three hours late the student would receive 80%, if it was submitted twenty four hours late or more, the student would receive 65%

Exceptions to the deadline and late policy

Life happens and sometimes it will not be possible to submit your assignment on time. If events cause you to require flexibility, you can take advantage of one of the following options:

- **Student Absence Portal**

- https://www.uwo.ca/sci/counselling/procedures/academic_consideration_for_absences/academic_considerations.html (or academic advising appropriate for your program)
- If there are circumstances beyond your control that precludes you from submitting on time, connect with an academic advisor who can recommend an extension on your behalf. Documentation will likely be required for the academic advisor. Documentation should not be sent to the instructor.
- Then connect with the instructor to decide an appropriate deadline given your circumstances. If it is not possible to determine an appropriate deadline, the weight of the assignment will be placed on the remaining assignments.
- This can be applied proactively or retroactively but only if recommended by the academic advisor

- **One late penalty automatically reversed**

- Each assignment is worth 6% of your overall grade. A -25% late penalty on 6% is -1.5% of your overall grade. Therefore, each student will automatically receive the equivalent of +1.5% to their overall grade. In other words, **all students will receive +1.5% on their overall grade for free.**
- In practice, this means

	Deductions from overall grade	One late penalty automatically reversed	Effective change to overall grade
All assignments on time	0.0%	+1.5%	+1.5%
One assignment submitted two days late	-1.5%	+1.5%	0.0%
One assignment submitted one day late	-0.6%	+1.5%	+0.9%
Two assignments two days late	-3.0%	+1.5%	-1.5%
...

- Note:
 - The late penalty will still be applied to the assignment. The +1.5% is added to your final grade, not the assignment.
 - The final grade is still capped at 100%

- This is applied automatically and input from the student is not required.

Quizzes

- There will be 11 equal weight quizzes (1 per lecture week)
- Quizzes begin the first week of classes
- Quizzes will be posted weekly on the course website beginning Thursdays at midnight and closing Sundays at 11:55pm.
- Quizzes can be reasonably completed in about 15 minutes at most.
- To be eligible for full marks, you must participate and complete at least 10 out of 11 quizzes, however participating and completing all 10 quizzes is recommended.
- Quizzes serve as a proxy for an attendance/participation grade
- Quizzes serve in lieu of a practice exam. In order to have access to practice questions, you must complete the quizzes.
- Quizzes are intended to be a low stress activity to encourage students to regularly review the material that has just been taught and help the student gauge their understanding of the material.
- **Quizzes are open book but must be done individually** and without the assistance of others. Sharing quiz questions/solutions, completing a quiz for or with another person or otherwise cheating on a quiz will result in a 0% quiz grade for ALL quizzes.
- Due to existing flexibility, approved absences from an academic counsellor will only be considered if more than 1 quiz could not be taken. The weight of the missed quizzes will be placed on the remaining quizzes.
- **There are no makeup quizzes or retakes.**
- In the unlikely event that a quiz must be cancelled for everybody, the weight of the cancelled quiz will be placed on the remaining quizzes

Midterm and Final Exam

Midterm exam

The midterm exam will be tentatively held **Wednesday, February 11** (during class time) and will cover all course material up to the end of the previous week including quizzes, lecture slides, and materials covered in assignments.

There is no makeup midterm. If a student has an approved absence from an academic advisor, the weight of the missed midterm will be placed on the final exam.

Final exam

The final exam will be conducted in person and cover all course material not covered on the midterm including quizzes, lecture slides, and materials covered in assignments. The final exam will be scheduled during Finals Period at Western.

Exam protocol

Exams are to be completed individually, with no assistance or contact with others. Violation of this rule, any other exam rule, or cheating of any kind will result in a 0% grade for the final exam and the possibility of additional penalties as deemed appropriate by the course instructor, department or university including but not limited to a failing grade being entered for the course. Exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, please contact the Academic Counselling office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a "Multiple Exam Situation" (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

Special Examinations

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

Computer Science Department Policies

You are responsible for reading and respecting the Computer Science Department's policy on

Scholastic Offences:

https://www.csd.uwo.ca/undergraduate/current/policies/scholastic_offenses.html

and Rules of Ethical Conduct:

https://www.csd.uwo.ca/undergraduate/current/policies/ethical_conduct.html

Coursework with Assessment Flexibility

For course elements without flexibility, the policy permits students to request one absence without proof of documentation. The midterm exam is excluded from this policy. Since sufficient flexibility is built into all other course components, all academic consideration requests will require proof of documentation.

If proof of documentation is provided, it will only be considered under the following circumstances:

- Quizzes
 - Since 10 out of 11 quizzes are counted towards the final grade, the first documented request will be denied due to existing flexibility. Further documented requests will be re-weighted to the other quizzes
- Assignments
 - Since all students have one late penalty reversed, the first documented request will be denied due to existing flexibility. Further documented requests or documented requests that extend from before the deadline and beyond 48 hours will be handled on a case-by-case basis
- Midterm exam
 - Documented requests will be acknowledged. The weight of the midterm will be placed on the final exam instead
- Final exam
 - Documented requests will be acknowledged. You will write the special exam instead

Additional Statements

Religious Accommodation

When conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request an accommodation for their absence

in writing to the course instructor and/or the Academic Advising office of their Faculty of Registration. This notice should be made as early as possible but not later than two weeks prior to the writing or the examination (or one week prior to the writing of the test).

Please visit the Diversity Calendars posted on our university's EDID website for the recognized religious holidays:
<https://www.edi.uwo.ca>.

Academic Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

General Academic Policies

The website for Registrar Services is <https://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>.

In accordance with policy,
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf
the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

Requests for Relief (formally known as "appeals")

Policy on Request for Relief from Academic Decision:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/requests_for_relief_from_academic_decisions.pdf

Procedures on Request for Relief from Academic Decision (Undergraduate):

https://uwo.ca/univsec//pdf/academic_policies/appeals/undergrad_requests_for_relief_procedure.pdf

Scholastic Offences

Policy on Scholastic Offences:

https://uwo.ca/univsec//pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf

Procedures on Scholastic Offences (Undergraduate):

https://uwo.ca/univsec//pdf/academic_policies/appeals/undergrad_scholastic_offence_procedure.pdf

Use of Electronic Devices during Assessments

In courses offered by the Faculty of Science, the possession of unauthorized electronic devices during any in-person assessment (such as tests, midterms, and final examinations) is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: mobile phones, smart watches, smart glasses, and wireless earbuds or headphones.

Unless explicitly stated otherwise in advance by the instructor, the presence of any such device at your desk, on your person, or within reach during an assessment will be treated as a scholastic offence, even if the device is not in use.

Only devices expressly permitted by the instructor (e.g., non-programmable calculators) may be brought into the assessment room. It is your responsibility to review and comply with these expectations.

Use of Generative AI Tools

Unless otherwise stated, the use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, Google Gemini, or similar platforms) is not permitted in the completion of any course assessments, including but not limited to: assignments, lab reports, presentations, tests, and final examinations.

Using such tools for content generation, code writing, problem solving, translation, or summarization—when not explicitly allowed—will be treated as a scholastic offence.

If the use of generative AI is permitted for a particular assessment, the conditions of use will be specified by the instructor in advance. If no such permission is granted, students must assume

that use is prohibited. It is your responsibility to seek clarification before using any AI tools in academic work.

Support Services

Please visit the Science & Basic Medical Sciences Academic Counselling webpage for information on add/drop courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters:

<https://www.uwo.ca/sci/counselling/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at

https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at

http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html if you have any questions regarding accommodations

Learning-skills counsellors at the Student Development Centre (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

Western University is committed to a thriving campus as we deliver our courses in the mixed model of both virtual and face-to-face formats. We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience website to manage your academics and well-being:

<https://www.uwo.ca/se/digital/>.

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC,
<http://westernusc.ca/services>.