

CNT 4603 – System Administration and Maintenance

Fall 2013 – Syllabus

Course Prerequisites: CGS 3763

Class Meets: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 3:30 – 4:20 pm in MSB 360

Instructor: Dr. Mark Llewellyn

Office: HEC 236

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 1:30 – 3:00 pm
Tuesday & Thursday 2:00 – 4:00 pm

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Course Web Site: www.cs.ucf.edu/courses/cnt4603/fall2013

Course Objective:

This course is designed to give you practical experience in system administration. We will cover a number of different topics and issues that face system administrators in their daily activities.

Texts: The following text will be used a bit later in this course:

Programming in Python 3: A Complete Introduction to the Python Language, 2e, Mark Summerfield, 2010, Pearson Education, ISBN-13: 978-0-321-68056-3.

The textbook will be supplemented with online lecture notes that I'll prepare which will come from a variety of resources. Any software that is required for the course will be available for downloading via the Internet.

Grading:

This will be a project-based course and the course grade will be determined by your performance on the various projects that will be assigned throughout the semester. Anticipate between 8-12 projects covering the various topics we will discuss during the lectures. Some of the projects will be smaller and simpler in nature than others and as such the length of time devoted to each project will vary somewhat. Each project will include a detailed description of what you need to accomplish as well as the due date for the project. You will submit your projects via WebCourses.

Projects are individual projects, which means that the work you submit must be your own. However, I encourage you to discuss the projects with your classmates and to ask for and provide assistance to each other, just be sure that the work you submit is your work and not that of a classmate (or anyone else for that matter).

The projects will give you experience in dealing with a number of different issues that arise in the world of system administration. Taken as a whole they will provide you with a valuable learning experience in a "real-world" setting. Failure to provide a submission for any project will result in the lowering of your final grade by one letter grade. For example, if you have an 83% average for the course, but failed to submit project 3, you will receive a C for the course.

EXAMS: Depending on the performance of the class as a whole on the early projects there may be a mid-term exam. Depending on the performance of the class as a whole on later projects there may be a final exam. If either or both of these exams occur, they will each count as a project. We will discuss this policy in class in more detail.

Final Exam Period (Friday December 6th: 1:00 – 3:50 pm)

Grading Scale:

Plus/minus grading will not be used in this course.

90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, <60 = F

Some Important Dates:

No class: Monday September 2nd – Labor Day

Monday November 11th – Veteran's Day

Last Day to Withdraw: Monday October 28th

Final Exam: Friday December 6th from 1:00pm till 3:50 pm

Topics To Be Covered:

1. Virtualization
2. User Accounting
3. Remote Access Services
4. Security
5. Maintenance
6. Scripting – Python and Ruby
7. Monitoring
8. Upgrading and patching

This is a general list of topics only and is subject to the needs of the class. It will be altered without notice, but will generally follow the same progression. At the end of each class I will tell you what we will be discussing during the next class period.

Lab Times:

There are no regularly scheduled labs for this course. Once we get things rolling and projects assigned we will use most Friday class times for lab sessions/help sessions. The TA for the course (see below) will be available during the class time in the classroom to help you with any issues you might be having related to the course projects.

TA Information:

The TA for the course is TBA.