COMP 319: Introduction to UNIX (Section 001)
Spring 2008 Course Information & Syllabus

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TA tutoring schedule: See `http://www.cs.luc.edu/academics/services/tutoring`.

Lectures: Monday, 1:40–2:30 pm in DH-339.
Sometimes lecture notes or a summary may be available on the web. Other than that, if you have to miss a class, get notes from another student; mine are typically pieced together from more than one place with a lot of metacomments, which makes it hard for anybody but me to follow them. Also get copies of any missed handouts (available on the web site). The handouts are numbered sequentially, starting with handout 0. On handout 0, you need to fill in some information and return it to me promptly so you can be on the email list and get access to the web site for the course.

Office Hours: In DH-225: Monday 2:30–3:30pm, Wednesday 2:00–3:30pm, and Friday 12:30–2:00pm.
These are the guaranteed times to find me except as announced in advance. You should also feel free to look for me at other times or make appointments.

Course Objectives: This course will introduce students to the basic utility and power of the UNIX operating system and related tools. Principal topics include the file system, UNIX commands and filters, the shell, and shell programming, and editors.

Prerequisites: COMP 170.

Textbook: The following text is recommended; much material is also available from online sources.

Sumitabha Das. *Your UNIX: The Ultimate Guide*. McGraw-Hill, second edition, 2006.

Course Requirements: There will be several homework assignments and two exams. There will be no final exam, but the final exam period might be used for students to present extra work done as a COMP 398 adjunct to COMP 219. (Extra 398 work will also be assigned and due during the course of the semester.) The weightings within the semester grade for COMP 219 will be: Homework 60%, Exam I 20%, Exam II 20%.

Homework: Homework is to be turned in at class on the due date. In this class, there will not generally be any solutions handed out, so it will be feasible to accept late homework; to avoid this getting out of hand, however, it will be necessary to penalize late homework by subtracting 10% of the grade earned for each week or part of a week that the homework is late.

Exams: The two exams, tentatively scheduled for week 7 and week 12, are 50 minutes long.

Collaboration: *No* collaboration is permitted on exams. *Collaboration* on homework is acceptable, but *copying* is not! (Safeguard your files and printouts.) You may discuss solution techniques with other students, but you must write up your solutions independently. If you obtain a solution through research, e.g., in the library, credit your source and write up the solution in your own words.

Tentative Course Outline and Approximate Schedule:

Recommended readings from the text are shown on a weekly basis. (When selected sections or subsections are listed, it is assumed that you will include the introduction of the corresponding chapter or section.)

1. (1/14) Course administriva. UNIX/Linux overview/history/variants. Accessing/installing Linux. Chapter 1.
2. (1/28) Some basic UNIX commands. Sections 2.1–5,2.10–15.
3. (2/4) The File System. Chapter 3.
4. (2/11) File Attributes. Sections 4.1–8, 4.11.
5. (2/18) Editors, esp. Pico and Emacs. Sections 6.1-16.
6. (2/25) The Shell, esp. Bash. Chapter 7.
7. (3/10) Exam I.
8. (3/17) The Process. Sections 8.1–4, 8.9–11.
9. (3/31) The Shell and the Environmnent. Sections 9.1–9, 9.11.
10. (4/7) Filters. Sections 10.5–7, 10.10, 10.12, 11.1–9, 11.12.
11. (4/14) Shell Programming. Sections 13.1–7, 13.12–13, Appendix B.
12. (4/21) Exam II.