CS 2204: UNIX

A hands-on introduction to the modern operating system UNIX. Introduction to the basic operating systems concepts employed by UNIX. Students gain experience with basic system usage, system installation and administration, the UNIX programming environment, and system utilities. Duplicates 2304 (UNIX). A grade of C or better required in CS prerequisite 1706. Pre: 1706 or ECE 2574. (2H,2C)

Lectures	Monday 9:05am-9:55am, McBryde 113
Instructor	Dr. Naren Ramakrishnan, 1-8451, Torgersen 2160L naren@cs.vt.edu, http://www.cs.vt.edu/∼naren
Office Hours	Mondays, Wednesdays 2-4pm, or walk in any time.
Graduate Teaching Assistant	H. Lally Singh, McBryde 133 (Next to elevator) lallysingh@mac.com
Office Hours	Tuesdays, Fridays 2pm-4pm.
Undergraduate Teaching Assistant	Michael S. Potter mspotter@vt.edu
Listserv	L91510_91511_91512_91513@listserv.vt.edu (yes, the name is rather long winded.)
Course Web Page	http://courses.cs.vt.edu/∼cs2204

If you are unable to make the above times and need to meet with us, you can setup an alternative time via email. If you need adaptations or accommodations because of a disability (learning disability, attention deficit disorder, psychological, or physical), if you have emergency medical information to share with the instructor, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please meet with the instructor ASAP.

Course Goals: The goal of the course is to make the student feel comfortable interacting with the UNIX operating system and hence serve as a stepping stone to the advanced courses that will use UNIX as the medium of instruction. We will specifically use GNU/Linux as the flavor of UNIX. The course will emphasize primarily end-user tools, basic commands, and special features of the UNIX shell environment. Students will learn through a combination of traditional lectures, hands-on laboratory sessions, and individual assignments.

Pre-requisite Enforcement: The pre-requisite will be strictly enforced. No exceptions; first-day attendance is mandatory. At the end of the first class, turn in the signed pre-requisite form.

Lab Sessions: Note that in addition to the Monday lectures, you will participate in a 50 minute lab session conducted by the GTA. There are many lab sessions in a given week, so look closely at your registration information to see which session you are enrolled in.

Evaluation: There will be 10-12 homeworks, which will involve a mix of questions and programming. There will also be regular quizzes conducted during the lab sessions, besides a final exam. Detailed breakdown: homeworks (60%), lab quizzes (25%), final (15%). Attendance at lab sessions is hence imperative for 25% of your grade. No late submissions will be accepted, except under 'reasonable' circumstances (contact the instructor to see what applies here). If you have an exam or homework that you feel has been graded incorrectly, please contact us, and we can discuss a re-grading if appropriate.

Keeping in Touch: A class listserv will be automatically created from enrolment data during the first week of classes. Stay tuned to the course webpage for details about it. If you do not receive a test mail from the instructor by the end of the first week of classes, ensure that your email address is properly recorded in the university system.

Workload: The course moves at a very fast pace! You are expected to readup on material after every class and complete the homeworks diligently. I can make the course interesting but you are expected to have a willingness to learn and to put in the required effort.

Electronic Accounts and Programming: You are expected to have UNIX accounts on the undergraduate lab network in McBryde Hall or some other equivalent facility (e.g. a personal computer running some flavor of Linux).

Book: There are no required books. The following is a recommended reference for the course.

- E. Siever, A. Weber, S. Figgins, R. Love, and A. Robbins, Linux in a Nutshell, Fifth Edition, O'Reilly, July 2005.

Do not be alarmed by the mammoth size of the book! It is meant to be a 'reference' book, i.e., something you will keep on your bookshelf long into your career. Supplemented with the lectures and notes provided on the course webpage, this book will be a useful resource as you get introduced to Linux. If you would like a more traditional 'textbook' to supplement the course notes and lectures, please contact the instructor for suggestions.

Honor Code: The Virginia Tech honor code applies. The work you turn in must be your own. Please read the CS department's 'policy on koofers, old programs, cheating, and computer use' which is applicable here. It is available at http://www.cs.vt.edu/academics/ugrad/Handbook/koof.html.
