

2025 Winter Syllabus
ECE353: Systems Software
Jonathan Eyolfson

Outcome. The high-level goal of this course is for students to understand the design and implementation of operating systems software.

Topics. Operating system structure, processes, threads, synchronization, CPU scheduling, memory management, file systems, input/output, multiple processor systems, virtualization, protection, and security. The laboratory exercises will require implementation of part of an operating system.

Schedule. All dates are subject to change from the University. Lectures start January 6 and end April 7. The final exam period is April 9 to April 30. Reading week is February 17 to February 21.

Section	Time	Location
LEC0101	Monday 1 PM to 3 PM	Room SF 3202
	Wednesday 9 AM to 10 AM	Room SF 3202
PRA0101	Monday 9 AM to 12 PM	Room SF 1013

Discussion. We will primarily use Discord for real-time questions and answers.

Materials. All links to materials are provided on Quercus. The book "Operating Systems: Three Easy Pieces" will complement the lectures.

Evaluation. This course contains 6 labs, 2 tests and final exam. All dates are tentative. The weights and due dates are below.

Assessment	Weight	Due Date
Lab 0	1%	January 13
Lab 1	4%	January 20
Lab 2	4%	February 3
Test 1	12.5%	February 12 @ 9 AM
Lab 3	4%	February 24
Lab 4	4%	March 10
Test 2	12.5%	March 12 @ 9 AM
Lab 5	4%	March 24
Lab 6	4%	April 7
Final Exam	50%	TBD

Students must submit at least 4 of 6 labs to complete the course.

Labs. Submissions are done using the Git server. We will provide students with a Git repository, and students are required to push their code for submission. Students submission time is considered when they push their code to the server, not their local timestamps. We do not accept late submissions.

Final Exam. Our final exam will be "Type A" and "Type 3" as described by the [Undergraduate Exam Types and Permitted Calculators](#).

Type A. A "closed book" examination. No aids are permitted other than the information printed on the examination paper.

Type 3. Non-programmable calculators from a list of approved calculators as issued by the Faculty Registrar. See a list of approved calculators below.

- Casio FX-991 (EX recommended; any suffix is acceptable, including ES, PLUS, ES PLUSC, MS, MSPLUS2)
- Sharp EL-520 (any suffix is acceptable, including X, XT)
- Sharp EL-W516 (any suffix is acceptable, including TBSL, XG, XGB-SL)
- Texas Instruments TI-30X (any suffix is acceptable, including a, IIS, XS)

Term-Work Petitions. Students may encounter unforeseen or uncontrollable circumstances that can severely interfere with their ability to fulfil their academic obligations. Some examples of reasons you may consider submitting a petition: severe personal illness, illness or death of a close family member, personal or family crisis, or other extenuating circumstances. In this scenario, submit a term-work petition through the [Engineering Portal](#). The default accommodation with a petition is an extension of 3 days, if approved. You should still submit your work within 3 days of the assessment due date, we apply the extension when the accommodation is approved. We handle extensions greater than 3 days on a case-by-case basis.

Academic Integrity. We expect you to follow the University's [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#). We will not tolerate any offenses. Cheating hurts your learning, and your fellow students. This includes posting your course Git repository to the public (e.g. on GitHub). Note that this policy applies after the semester as well.

University Land Acknowledgement. I wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years, it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

Wellness and Mental Health Support. As a university student, you may experience a range of health and/or mental health challenges that could result in significant barriers to achieving your personal and academic goals. Please note, the University of Toronto and the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering offer a wide range of free and confidential services that could assist you during these times.

As a U of T Engineering student, you have a [Departmental Undergraduate Advisor](#) who can support you by advising on personal matters that impact your academics. Other resources that you may find helpful are listed on the [U of T Engineering Mental Health & Wellness webpage](#).

If you find yourself feeling distressed and in need of more immediate support resources, consider reaching out to the counsellors at [My Student Support Program \(MySSP\)](#) or visiting U of T Engineering's [Urgent Support Talk to Someone Right Now](#).

Accommodations. We strive to create equitable and inclusive learning environments for everyone in our community. The University supports accommodations for students with diverse learning needs, which may be associated with (but not limited to) mental health conditions, learning disabilities, ADHD, autism spectrum, mobility impairments, functional/fine motor impairments, concussion or head injury, blindness and low vision, chronic health conditions, addictions, deafness and hearing loss, communication disorders and/or temporary disabilities, such as fractures and severe sprains, or recovery from an operation.

If you have a learning need that requires an accommodation the University of Toronto recommends that students register as soon as possible with [Accessibility Services \(AS\)](#) at the beginning of the academic year by visiting. Without registration, you will not be able to verify your situation with your instructors, and instructors will not be advised about your accommodation needs. AS will assess your situation, develop an accommodation plan with you, and support you in requesting accommodation for your course work from your instructor. Remember that the process of accommodation is private: AS will not share details of your needs or condition with any instructor, and your instructors will not reveal that you are registered with AS.