CSCI 260 - Computer Architecture II
Spring 2026

Time: Tuesday, Thursday $7^{00} - 8^{15}$ PM, HW-714

Format: In-person, no recordings (you will need to take notes)

Instructor: Subash Shankar (`subash.shankar@hunter.cuny.edu`)

Office Hours: Instructor (HN-1000F): Fri 3^{30}–5^{30} PM
Tutors (HN-1001F):

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
12^{00}–2^{00} 3^{00}–4^{00}	1^{00}–3^{00} 3^{00}–4^{00}	1^{30}–3^{30} 3^{00}–5^{00}	1^{30}–3^{30}	

In general, the tutors are your first point of contact if you need help.

Contact: Content questions: please post on the appropriate class forum (**not** email). I will answer daily.
Logistics questions: please consult syllabus and post on the appropriate class forum if still needed. I will answer within 2 business days (normally less).
Personal questions: please email me from your hunter account with "260" in subject line (I can not reply to other accounts).

Bulletin Board: You should check Brightspace daily, since all class material (schedule, reading lists, homework, corrections, etc.) will be posted/updated there. Please make sure you have configured it to use your prefered email address, since you are responsible for any email I might send to that address (your Hunter email address, by default).

Prerequisites: CSCI 135 and CSCI 160 (and transitively, CSCI 127) all with a grade of C or better. You should be very comfortable with binary numbers, and be able to do conversions instantaneously. You should also know the basic combinational and sequential hardware elements well, and understand pointers.

Text: David Patterson and John Hennessy, Computer Organization & Design - The Hardware/Software Interface (RISC-V version), 2nd Edition, ISBN 9780128203316 Make sure to get the RISC-V version (not ARM or MIPS). I *may* also post some material that is only in other editions.

Reading: You are responsible for all the material on the reading list, even though the lectures will not cover a considerable portion of it. I expect to cover most of Chapters 1-2, 4, appendices A and C (mostly reviews of 160), and a few other topics.

Grading: A passing test grade average is required to pass the course. If you pass the tests, your grade is computed as follows:

65% Tests

35% Homework + Projects

The lowest software (Chap. 2) and lowest hardware (other chapters) homework will be dropped. There *may* be quizzes that modify grades of above components. I may also add points for those who actively participate in class. Although the homework points may seem small, you will almost certainly fail the tests without doing homework, as the point of homework is to learn the material.

Final letter grades are based on what you know, not what you may have done. In particular, this means there are no personalized extra credit assignments to substitute for knowledge of the material. If you want to get a good grade, you need to study hard and effectively from day 1. Final letter grades will be based on a curve.

Tests: There will be 2 tests. Most test questions will be conceptual and will require a good understanding of the material rather than rote memorization. Thus, you should concentrate on understanding the concepts and knowing how to apply the material instead of memorizing trivia.

Homework / Projects: THIS IS A HOMEWORK-INTENSIVE COURSE, with approximately one homework due every lecture! A few homeworks will be projects, and weighted higher. Assignments will be posted on the bulletin board, and are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Homeworks must be labeled with **your alias only** (*i.e.*, no name), as any homework with *any* identifing information must get a 0.

Homework problems are discussed when handed back, *if* you ask me to. If you don't ask any questions, I will assume you find the homework easy.

You are encouraged to work with others when learning the material and doing homework. However, all submitted work should be written (not copied) by yourself. It is standard professional practice to acknowledge any assistance you might have received in your homework, including any work done in a group. I will be strictly enforcing this, and any uncited work will be prosecuted as plagiarism.

Late Policy: No late homework is accepted, though you should still do it to learn the material.
For projects, the late penalty is:

- 1 min. – 2 hours: 3%
- 2–24 hours: 8%
- longer: 8% per calendar day, capped at 50%

No projects are accepted after 10 days or they are graded, whichever comes first.

Make-up tests are not given under any circumstances. If there are extraordinary circumstances why you are unable to take a test, you must provide documentation *prior* to the test to avoid getting a zero.

Other:

I ask that all **cell phones** be turned off in class. Points may be deducted for disruptive behavior affecting the learning ability of your classmates – this includes **talking** in class.

All course material (including lectures, solutions, etc.) is owned by me and protected by **copyright**. You may use material for yourself, but any other use (including posting on websites, whether free or not) is illegal and subject to disciplinary action without my express written permission.

I take **academic honesty** very seriously, and any violation results in *at least* a 0 on that work along with sanctions in accordance with Hunter College and CS department procedures. The official college statement is:
Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.
Academic dishonesty includes uploading or submitting class assignments or exams to third party platforms and websites beyond those assigned for the class, such as commercial homework aggregators, without the proper authorization of a professor. Any use of generative AI tools must be in line with the usage policy for specific assignments as defined in the course of the syllabus and/or communicated by the course instructor.

In compliance with the **American Disability Act** of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical and/ or Learning) consult the Office of Accessability located in Room E1124 to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance please call (212-772-4857)/TTY (212-650-3230).

In compliance with the **CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct**, Hunter College reaffirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationships. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

a. Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, or contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444).
b. All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (`jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu` or 212-650-3262) or Colleen Barry (`colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu` or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct Link: `http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/la/Policy-on-SexualMisconduct-12-1-14-with-links.pdf`

Bullying, cyberbullying, online hate, intimidation, threats, harassment, and pressure to share schoolwork are all forms of violence. CUNY holds a zero tolerance stance towards all such acts. The University is committed to prevention of any form of bullying, will respond promptly to threats and/or acts, and will protect victims of bullying from retaliation. As a criminal matter, the New York Attorney General defines cyberbullying as the use of email, websites, instant messaging, chat rooms, text messaging and digital cameras to antagonize and intimidate others. Disrupting a teleconferencing platform (such as Zoom/Skype/Blackboard Collaborate Ultra) is a federal crime.

This course partly meets the department's **learning outcomes** 1A, 1B, 1D, 3A-3D.

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. Any changes to this syllabus will be announced in class, and an updated syllabus will be posted.