

# Computer Architecture

CS 220  
Fall 2009

- Instructor:** Thomas P. Kelliher  
Hoffberger 140  
Office: (410) 337-6189  
Home: (410) 931-2946  
Cell: Available upon request.  
kelliher[at]goucher.edu  
<http://phoenix.goucher.edu/~kelliher/>  
Office hours: MWThF 11:00am–12:00pm. Other times by appointment.
- Class:** Hoffberger 149, MWF 12:30–1:20pm.  
<http://phoenix.goucher.edu/~kelliher/f2009/cs220/>
- Objectives:** The main objective of this class is for you to learn how a computer is organized to execute programs. A secondary objective is learning how the organizational building blocks of a computer are constructed from smaller building blocks (i.e., combinational gates and memory elements).
- We will consider the major organizational components of modern computer systems: arithmetic logic unit (ALU), control, memory hierarchy, and I/O. We will study things such as high speed addition and multiplication circuits, ways of implementing control logic, pipelining, caches, and paging hardware. Some of these are basic requirements of all general purpose computers, while others, such as pipelining and caches, are performance enhancements.
- We will also study how microarchitectural techniques are employed to speed execution, learn about multiprocessors, and learn how an architect designs an architecture to solve a specified class of problems.
- Textbook:** D. A. Patterson and J. L. Hennessy, “Computer Organization & Design: The Hardware/Software Interface,” 4th ed., Morgan Kaufmann, 2009. Required.
- Grading:** **Grade Distribution**  
A = [92–100], A- = [90–92), B+ = [88–90), B = [82–88), B- = [80–82), etc.  
Grades are “one point rounded.”
- Course Point Distribution**  
There are tentatively 700 total points for the course:
1. Assignments. There will be approximately six written assignments. Each assignment will be worth 50 points and due in class. Except for emergencies, late assignments will not be accepted.
  2. Semester exams. There will be two exams, on the following dates: Oct. 12 and Nov. 18. Each will be worth 100 points. If you need to re-schedule an exam, it is your responsibility to let me know a few days beforehand.

3. Final. There will be a cumulative final, scheduled by SAS. The final is worth 200 points.

Current grades (password protected) may be viewed on the class home page.

**Course Handouts:**

Course handouts may be made available once in class. After that, they may be obtained from the class home page.

**Attendance:**

Attendance of classes is expected. It is your responsibility to catch up on missed class work.

**Electronic Communication:**

From time-to-time, I will need to send e-mail messages to the class. These messages will be addressed to your official Goucher e-mail addresses. You are responsible for checking your e-mail on a timely basis.

**Distractions:**

Cell phones must be turned off or set to “silent” during class. If you must enter late, do so as unobtrusively as possible. Likewise if you must leave early. Please use mental telepathy if you must hold a personal conference during class. I have ways of making you not talk!

**Integrity:**

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. We are all bound by the Academic Honor Code.