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# *csce215 — UNIX/Linux Fundamentals*

## *Fall 2021 — Syllabus*

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### **1 Course Personnel**

Instructor: Professor Jason O’Kane (jokane@cse.sc.edu)

Graduate teaching assistant: Yong Zhao (yongz@email.sc.edu)

Undergraduate teaching assistant: Anne Tumlin (atumlin@email.sc.edu)

### **2 Webpage**

Information about the course will be posted at this site:

`https://cse.sc.edu/~jokane/215`

This site will be the definitive resource for the course, and is the place to look for assignments, lecture notes, and announcements.

### **3 Instructional format**

This is an in-person course consisting of two parts:

- **Lectures** on Mondays from 1:10 until 2:00, in SWGN 1C01 (Amoco Hall). These lectures will introduce new material, primarily in a live demonstration format. Notes on this material will be made available on the course website, but those notes are intended as supplements to, rather than as replacements for, engaged in-class attendance.
- **Labs** on Wednesdays, at distinct times for each section, in SWGN 1D43. Each lab session will consist of a series of exercises that practice and extend the material from that week’s lecture. Details about how to access the lab, including the door combination and a list of hostnames for remote access, may be found here:

`https://cse.sc.edu/resources/cse-linux-workstations`

Attendance at both the lectures and labs will be tracked and will be counted toward determination of final grades, as described below.

Certain weeks will have neither lectures nor labs, to keep the overall time required appropriate for a one credit hour course. Check the course website for specific dates.

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## 4 Office Hours

When?	Where?	Who?
Thursdays, 2:30–4:00	SWGN 1D43	Tumlin
Fridays, 11:00–12:00	Innova 2229	O’Kane

You may also stop by my office at other times—I am often, but not always, around and available to help—or make an appointment via email.

In addition, a Slack workspace dedicated to the course, allowing online discussion with the instructor and TAs, has been established. An invitation link will be provided in class.

## 5 Description

**Official description** UNIX operating system, user-level system commands, and programming tools. UNIX scripting languages.

**Course outcomes** After taking this course, you should be able to:

1. Use the user-level tools available in UNIX-like operating systems to run and build software and programs.
2. Describe, traverse, and manipulate file systems in UNIX-like systems.
3. Describe and use processes, pipes, signals, and filters.
4. Automate tasks using appropriate scripting languages.
5. Utilize regular expressions and related tools to search and modify text.

## 6 Prerequisites

**By course** CSCE 145 Algorithmic Design I

**By topic** This course requires a user-level understanding of modern operating systems and a working knowledge of a programming language such as C, C++, or Java.

## 7 Textbook

There is no required textbook for the course. Instead, course content will draw upon several open educational resources (i.e. free online materials). The primary resource will be:

Shotts, William. *The Linux Command Line*. Fifth Internet Edition, 2019.

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This is a comprehensive introduction to Unix-like systems, available both as a collection of web pages and in book form. Reading assignments will be drawn directly from the book format. Direct links to this resource and others as needed will be made available on the course website.

## 8 *Evaluation and Grading*

Your learning in this course will be evaluated based on the following factors:

- An online **start-up quiz** quiz, worth 10 points. The quiz covers the basic policies and procedures for the course, is available at the course website, and must be completed by 11:59pm on Friday, August 27.
- **Attendance** at the 9 lectures and 9 lab sessions, each worth 3 points, for a total of 54 possible attendance points.
- **Lab assignments**, one for each lab session, each worth 40 points. Across the 9 lab sessions, a total of 360 points are available. Each week's lab assignment will be due at 11:59pm on Friday of that week.
- A **final exam** on Friday, December 10 at 12:30pm, worth 100 points.

Thus, there are a total of **524 points** available to earn through the semester.

The following table shows how final grades will be determined.

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Range</b>
A	471–524
B+	445–470
B	420–444
C+	394–419
C	367–393
D+	341–366
D	314–340
F	0–313

**Gradebook access** Grades will be posted on the CSE moodle server:

<https://dropbox.cse.sc.edu>

It is your responsibility to verify that grades are correctly recorded on this site.

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**Corrections and regrades** My goal is to ensure that all of the grading for this course is fair and correct. If you believe there's been a mistake in grading, please bring it to my attention within one week after the scores are posted. Regrade requests after one week will be politely declined.

**Important reminder** Keep in mind that I am grading your work, not you as a person.

**Deviations from the grading policy** I assume that every student takes the class intending to succeed, and I share that goal. However, in the interest of fairness and consistency, requests for grade increases that are inconsistent with the stated grading scale will be politely declined. Here is an incomplete list of hypothetical requests from students that are **not sufficient** reasons to deviate from the stated grading scale:

- I need a GPA of at least \_\_\_ to get the internship I want.
- My parents will be disappointed in me.
- If my grade is less than \_\_\_, I won't be able to graduate.
- I've never gotten a grade as low as \_\_\_ before.
- Getting a grade lower than \_\_\_ makes me feel sad.
- I have too many other responsibilities.
- The course is too hard for me.
- I am about to graduate.
- I have a good GPA so far.
- I have never failed a class before.
- I am willing to do extra work.
- I am really close to getting a \_\_\_.
- I want to get into graduate school.

## 9 Policies

**Seating charts** For Fall 2021, University Policy expects instructors to “establish a way to help the contact tracers from the University Health Services establish who was sitting within 6ft of whom in a class on a particular day.” As a result:

- For the lectures, students should select seats that maintain 6ft distancing, to the extent that this is feasible.
- For both a lectures and the labs, seating charts will be established in the first week, and students will be expected to maintain those seats through the semester.

**Cheating** Academic dishonesty undermines the educational mission of the course and reflects disrespect to your classmates and to your instructor. Therefore, you are expected to practice the highest possible standards of academic integrity. This policy includes all forms of academic misrepresentation, including cheating, complicity, falsification, and plagiarism.

In particular, lab assignments should be done independently. Discussions with your classmates or others should remain at a very high level, and must not include any specific

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details of the solutions. You must work out the details and compose the complete answers independently. Submission of identical or substantially identical work will be considered strong evidence that violations of academic integrity by all involved have occurred.

It is not acceptable in this course to copy/paste commands or code into your terminal or editor, to submit work completed by anyone else as your own, to make your own work available to anyone else, nor to distribute or post the materials for the course in any venue.

More details on university's academic integrity policies are available at

<http://sc.edu/academicintegrity>

The academic penalty for students found responsible for violating the academic integrity expectations is a failing grade for the course.

**Excused absences** Excused absences include (but are not limited to) being in quarantine or isolation, illness, religious holidays, medical conditions related to pregnancy, military duty, legal obligation to appear at or participate in a judicial or administrative proceeding, and any other absences required to be excused by applicable state or federal law. Such absences are exempt from the attendance policy described above. Whenever possible, documentation is required in advance of any excused absence.

**Late assignments** Each week's lab assignment will be due at 11:59pm on Friday of that week. The submission site will close promptly at 11:59 on Friday evening, and no additional late submissions will be accepted.

**Mobile devices** Please silence any mobile devices before coming to class. If your phone rings in class, I reserve the right to answer it for you and take a message. Likewise, if my phone rings during class time, I will allow a student to answer it.

**Accommodations for disabilities** Reasonable accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. If you have a disability and may need accommodations to fully participate in this class, contact the Student Disability Resource Center. (<https://www.sa.sc.edu/sds/>). All accommodations must be approved through the Student Disability Resource Center.

**Potential for policy changes** Amendments to the syllabus at the instructor's reasonable discretion, including changes to course schedule or to the evaluation and grading mechanisms, are possible but unlikely.