You will design and implement a microprocessor this quarter!
Course Goals

• Apply what you learned in 141
• See architecture play itself out in a real design
• Learn (more) Verilog
• Get experience working on a large-scale project
• Have Fun!

• “I hear, I forget. I see, I remember. I do, I understand.”
Course Format

- Six labs
  - More about these in a moment.
- Lectures
  - Verilog coding
  - Discuss current or upcoming lab
  - Work through part of the lab
  - Answer questions about the lab
  - Sort of like group office hours
- On November 25th, in place of normal class, we will practice our independent study, learning, and hacking skills.
Lab 1: Introduction Xilinx ISE

- 1 week
- Two Xilinx tutorials
  - Building projects
  - Entering verilog
  - Simulation
  - etc.
- Build, simulate, and synthesize simple circuits
- Measure their properties
- These are skills you will need throughout the class
- Start now!
Lab 2: Simple Datapath

- 1 week
- Implement the datapath for a brain-dead processor
  - 16 bit instruction, 8 bit data
  - 9 instructions: Add, Sub, Mult, Ld, St, Li, Read, Write, Halt
Lab 3: Simple Control

• 1 week.
• Add control the datapath in Lab 2
• Execute simple programs

• You have now built a simple processor! But not a very useful one.
Lab 4: Your own datapath

- 2 weeks
- Use an ISA from cse141
- Design and the implement the datapath needed to execute the instructions.
- Design review with another team.
Lab 5: Control for your processor

- 2 weeks
- Implement the control path for your processor
- You will now have a working CPU! Hurrah!
- Evaluate the performance of your CPU with some simple benchmarks.
Lab 6: Make your CPU Cooler

- 2-3 weeks
- The sky is the limit
  - Pipelining
  - Build a multiprocessor
  - Branch prediction
  - Speculation
  - Multi-media instructions
  - ???
Link to 141

- You do not need to be in 141 to take 141L
- We will use the results of the 141 project in this class
  - 141 Project: Design a 17-bit instruction, 34-bit data ISA
  - Due just before the start of Lab 3.
- If you are not in 141, you will “license” an ISA from one of the groups in 141
  - License is free to you. The licenser gets extra credit.
Doing the work

• Lab 1 will be done independently
• Lab 2-6 will be in groups of 2-3
  • Higher standards for groups of 3
  • Regrouping is allowed for labs 4-6
  • Choose your groups carefully
    • If your group breaks up at any time after lab 4 begins, you are stuck.
• The overarching philosophy is “learn by doing”
  • You (and your group) must do all your own coding and design.
  • You should absolutely talk to other students in the class about Xilinx problems, design options, etc.
• Labs 1-3 are specifically for this: you are all building the same thing. Learn from each other!
Lab space and Software

• We will use the Xilinx tools for development
  • Verilog entry
  • Simulation
  • Debugging facilities
  • Like all hardware design tools, there are bugs.
  • These are among the best tools available, hard as that may be to believe.

• The labs in the CSE basement have the tools installed

• They are also available for free (see link on the website)
  • YOU MUST GET VERSION 10.1 AND INSTALL ALL THE PATCHES!!! The current version is 11. We are not using 11.
Course Staff

• Prof: Steven Swanson
• TA: Vasileios Kontorinis

• One of us will be in the lab 2 nights per week.
  • We hate to be lonely!
  • We will fix the room and time shortly.

• See course web site for details.
Grading

- Two grading schemes
- By the numbers
  - Six labs + class participation
  - ~Equal weight on each (14% per lab, 16% participation)
- Outcome-based
  - Do a reasonable job on the labs (at least a C)
  - Deliver a working processor.
  - You get an A.