

# Welcome to CSE 141!

**Instructor:** Cynthia Lee

**Email:** [clbailey@cs.ucsd.edu](mailto:clbailey@cs.ucsd.edu)\*

**Office Hours:** 2:30-3:30p Mon and Thurs

**TA:** Sat Garcia

**Email:** [sat@cs.ucsd.edu](mailto:sat@cs.ucsd.edu)\*

**Office Hours:** TBA

**TA:** Steve Checkoway

**Email:** [scheckow@cs.ucsd.edu](mailto:scheckow@cs.ucsd.edu)\*

**Office Hours:** TBA

**Class Meeting:** MWF 10-11:50 in CSE 2154

**Discussion:** TuTh 10-10:50 in WLH 2113 (*Discussion sections will not be conducted in the way you may be used to. Please see the homework section for more details.*)

**Final Exam:** Saturday Sept 8, 11:30a-2:29p *location TBA*

**Prerequisites:** CSE140/140L

**Textbook:** *Computer Organization and Design: The Hardware/Software Interface*, 3rd ed.

## Passwords:

Lecture slides (classroom: CSE141\_Lee, password to join class: cse141)

Gradesource (your passwords were emailed to you on the first day of class)

Webboard (username is your UCSD email name, password is your PID (a#####))

\* **Questions:** All non-confidential questions should be posted to the webboard instead of by email to the instructor or TAs. This is to facilitate faster responses and allow all students the benefit of the answer.

## Why CSE 141?

Understanding computers at the architecture level will increase your expertise in *other* areas of Computer Science, especially software programming. You gain a deeper understanding of how well (or not so well) high-level software actions translate to actions in the underlying hardware and *dramatically* affect performance. Here, you will discover that much of what you thought you knew about which algorithms run faster or not, will be turned upside-down by the realities of modern processor and memory design.

## Grading

Grades will be computed as follows:

5% Class Participation

10% Written Homeworks

20% Quizzes (or 10% Quizzes and 10% Group Study)\*

25% Midterm

40% Final Exam

You must get a passing grade on the final exam to pass the course.

## Class Participation

One goal of this course is to develop an ability to engage actively with the material and critically evaluate design decisions. As such, students are encouraged to ask questions, point out weaknesses, make observations and suggest alternatives during the lecture. (By no means should you take this to mean that only brilliant ideas are welcome during lecture! Lecture is for in-progress learning, not perfection.) Additionally, alerting the instructor when you are confused, lost, didn't hear something, or otherwise in need of additional explanation is strongly encouraged. There will also be frequent opportunities for structured active participation during lecture (solving problems), in which everyone is expected to participate.

As far as grading of class participation, these points are intended to recognize the fact that I will be asking a great deal of you during class--perhaps more than you are used to in a university lecture. This includes the problem-solving activities, as well as frequent feedback to me, use of Ubiquitous Presenter, etc. I feel your attendance and your active participation merit recognition in the form of points. Note for the shy: it is not required to raise your hand and say something every lecture--you will find there are a *variety* of ways to be actively participating.

## Homework

Homework assignments have two parts: individual problems (required) and group problems (not required). Individual problems are to be completed *strictly* individually. Also, because each is only worth a small amount, and to enable speedy feedback from the graders, late homework will not be accepted. Completing the group problems with your friends is strongly encouraged to help you prepare for quizzes and exams. Both having your questions answered, and explaining to others, are *extremely* valuable in the cognitive process of learning. To provide further encouragement for doing the optional problems in groups, I am offering the following arrangement:

By attending supervised group study sessions, you may change the weighting of quiz scores to be just 10% of the final grade (instead of 20%). That extra 10% will then be your grade for the group study sessions instead. The group study sessions are held during

discussion section (there will be no regular discussion section--if you have questions for the TAs, please use office hours and the webboard). Be on time and participate as directed by the TAs to get credit for group study sessions. Primarily, you will be solving the group problems in groups of about 4 students. (It is not necessary to commit to attending every single group session--credit will be pro-rated based on how many of the 10 sessions you attend.)

## Quizzes

Quizzes will be every Friday, except the Fridays of the midterm and final (3 quizzes in all). If you miss a quiz, you will be unable to make it up at a later time. The quizzes are mainly intended to help you gauge for yourself how well you understand the material from lecture and homework, and ensure your readiness for the midterm and final.

## Exams

There will be two examinations in this course. The exams will be closed book, but you will be provided with a "cheat sheet" as part of the exam booklet. Exactly what is on the cheat sheet will be explained prior to the exam. Because we will provide you with the details, the questions will stress conceptual understanding as opposed to memorization. The final will be comprehensive covering material from the entire course.

## Grading Inquiries

Inquiries about your grade should be directed, in writing (email) to the TAs, no more than 7 days after the grade was posted online. All grades are fixed after 7 days.

## Collaboration

Quizzes and exams are to be completed individually. Individual homework is done *strictly* individually. Plagiarism of homework is a serious breach of academic integrity, and will affect your entire grade for the course, not just the 10% allotted to homework.

## Academic Integrity Policy

Do not cheat. If you cheat, or are even suspected of cheating, I will enforce the UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship. This means that your case will be referred to the Dean of your college, who will determine your guilt or innocence, and who will determine your punishment if guilty. Punishment may be up to and including an F in the course, academic probation or suspension from UCSD. **Use of any materials, consulting any person, or any other means of assistance not explicitly authorized by the instructor is considered cheating.** Translation: you cannot assume something is ok just because I haven't said not to do it. If you have any questions about this, please ask.