

Readiness Survey

To undertake this course, you should have taken an undergraduate level course on or be otherwise familiar with basic hardware and software aspects of computer systems organization.

Prior programming experience with C and C++ is recommended, as C and C++ is required for the practical component of this course.

If you answer “no” to any of the following questions, it may be beneficial for you to refresh your knowledge before enrolling in this class or be prepared to rely on supplemental material as the course proceeds.

1. Have you taken an undergraduate operating systems course, or at least a computer system course that surveys basic computer hardware and systems software components?
2. Have you taken a course that covers computer architecture topics? Do you understand the basics of how computer systems work?
3. Do you at least conceptually understand the definition and purpose of some of the key OS mechanisms and abstractions: process, thread, address space, page table, device driver, scheduling, virtual memory management, file system...?
4. Are you familiar with C and C++? Have you programmed in a Linux environment?
This introductory lesson should give you a better idea of the practical skills you will need for this course.
5. Are you interested in understanding the internals of how computing systems work, and how to get them to work “better” (as opposed to being interested in upper-level software and building cool applications)?