

Web Server Design

Lecture 1 – Administrivia

Old Dominion University

Department of Computer Science

CS 431/531 Spring 2026

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Original slides by Michael L. Nelson

Introduction

- This is a programming class!
- I assume you know how to:
 - do network (socket) programming
 - write a daemon
 - work in Unix/Linux
 - real programmers use *nix
 - real programmers use the command line
- Course Website: <https://cs531-s26.github.io/>
 - Syllabus
 - Lectures
 - Assignments
 - Tester
 - Discussions

Assignments

- 5 Primary Assignments (“releases”), 20 points each
- Extra credit / supplementary assignments on a rolling basis
 - these are for extra points
 - you’ll probably have the opportunity for 120—130 points, but
 - you’ll still be graded on a 100 point scale
- Assignments lose 3 points for every 24 hours they are late
- No exams, quizzes, etc.

Grading

Grade	Graduate	Undergraduate
A	94-100	92-100
A-	90-93	90-91
B+	88-89	87-89
B	84-87	82-86
B-	80-83	80-81
C+	78-79	77-79
C	74-77	72-76
C-	70-73	70-71
D+	N/A	67-69
D	N/A	62-66
D-	N/A	60-61
F	00-69	00-59

Attendance

- Attendance is required for class participation, presentation, and discussion
- Absences must be cleared with the instructor prior to lectures
- You are responsible for everything that is said, discussed, and presented during lectures

Honor Code

- Please familiarize yourself with the [ODU Honor Code](#)
- Especially, resources pertaining to Plagiarism and Academic Integrity
 - <https://www.odu.edu/student-conduct-academic-integrity>

Michael Nelson at Old Dominion X +

www.ratemyprofessors.com/Show Search

RATE MY PROFESSORS SEARCH FOR A PROFESSOR OR SCHOOL FOLLOW US LOG IN

60 PROFS	02/24/2017	CS432	TOUGH GRADER EXTRA CREDIT LECTURE HEAVY
SCHOOL	AWFUL	For Credit: Yes Attendance: Mandatory	Had PHD students give presentations on two different languages and expects us to know them just like that. Avoid at all cost unless you have prior knowledge of Python. Much of the software which is required for the class is not on the CS machines and you have to download. Masters students and the undergrads in the class have the same work.
RATE	1.0 OVERALL QUALITY 5.0 LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY	Textbook Used: No Would Take Again: No Grade Received: WD	2 people found this useful 0 people did not find this useful report this rating
BLOG	02/24/2017	CS432	LOTS OF HOMEWORK EXTRA CREDIT LECTURE HEAVY
	AWFUL	For Credit: Yes Attendance: Not Mandatory	Ridiculously difficult. I spend more time in this one than my other 4 classes combined. There are 10 assignments, no test. 3 hour lecture with 80-95 page ppts. Getting help from him is difficult and often very vague despite him wanting specific questions. The material is very useful and interesting but the class does not allow for mastery.
	1.0 OVERALL QUALITY 4.0 LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY	Textbook Used: No Would Take Again: No Grade Received: Not sure yet	1 person found this useful 0 people did not find this useful report this rating

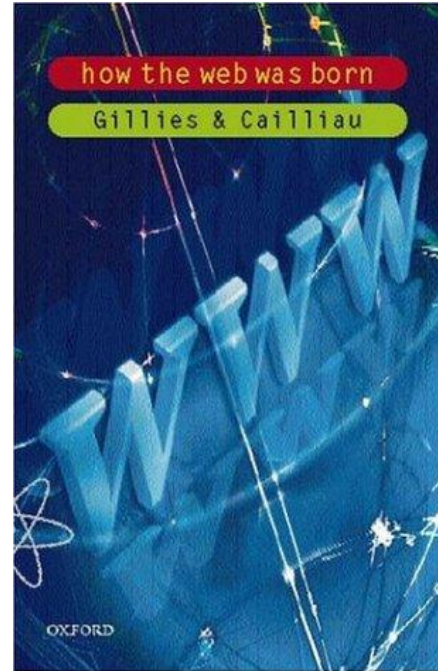
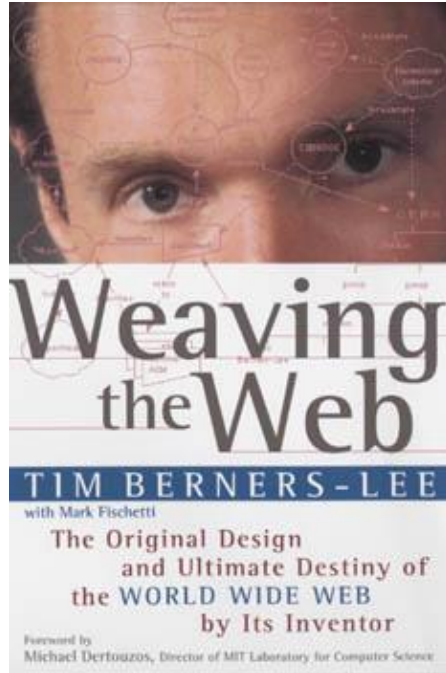
Connecting to ups.virool.com...

With apologies to TLC:

“No, I don't want no scrub
A scrub is a programmer that
can't get no love from me
Hangin' out the passenger side
Of their best friend's GitHub
Trying to holla at me
I don't want no scrub”

<http://www.ratemyprofessors.com/ShowRatings.jsp?tid=550895>

No WWW History



If you want to know more, read a book
(irony intentional)

HTTP Developer's Handbook

- Primary focus of this class will be reading & interpreting *RFCs*
 - RFCs are the technical documents that define how the web works
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Request_for_Comments
- But RFCs are not always the best resources to learn from
 - augment class slides + discussion with relevant sections from the class text book

