

General Information

- **Instructor:** Amr El Abbadi
- Office: 3115 Engineering I
- Office hours: TR 11-12.
- **Teaching Assistant:** Stacy Patterson
- Office hours: M 11-12:30 and W 11:30 - 1 (DSL: Eng I: 3158)

Format

In this class I will be presenting some of the fundamental topics that form the basis of research in Distributed Systems and Computing. The topics we will cover are in no way exhaustive, and of course, they reflect my own subjective biases and some of my current interests. I will not be using a textbook. However, you will be expected to read several papers, which I will either handout or post a pointer to from the class website. I expect you all to read the papers that I discuss in class. I plan to have 6 to 8 in-class 1/2 hour quizzes. These will be announced a lecture in advance and will basically ensure that you are all following the material as we progress. I expect to also hand out 1 or 2 homework/programming projects to further explore some of the basic ideas discussed in class. Some of the homeworks may involve reading a paper that is related to the topic being discussed in class. Also, depending on the class size, we may have some student class presentations.

Supplementary Textbooks

- Distributed Operating Systems and Algorithms by Chow and Johnson, Addison-Wesley, Reading, MA (1997).
- Distributed Systems: Concepts and Design by Coulouris, Dollimore and Kindberg, Addison Wesley 2005.

Policies and Quizes

The course grade will be based on the quizzes and homework/programming assignments. Requests for quiz and homework regrades must be submitted within 2 weeks of their return. Finally, grades will be approximately allocated as follows: quizzes: 60%, homeworks and projects 40%. With respect to the quizzes, I plan to discard the lowest quiz grade when calculating your overall grade.

A Sampling of the Topics Covered

1. Time and Global States
2. Coordination, Mutual Exclusion and Agreement
3. Combining Information from Multiple Sources
4. Fault-Tolerance
5. Peer-to Peer Systems
6. Transaction Management