



OTTERBEIN  
UNIVERSITY

# Syllabus

## COMP 2400-01

### Computer Systems

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*Spring Semester 2025*

#### Basic Information

**Credits:** 4.0  
**Lecture:** **MWF** 11:30 a.m. - 12:25 p.m.  
Art & Communication C112  
**Lab:** **TR** 11:30 a.m. - 12:50 p.m. (Lab)  
Art & Communication C142  
**Prerequisites:** COMP 2000

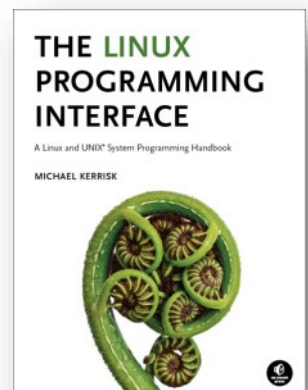
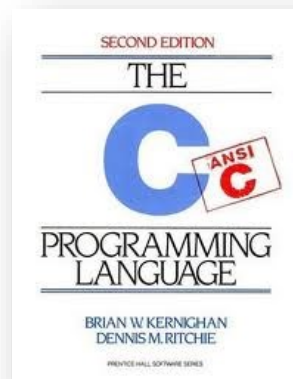
#### Instructor Information

**Name:** Dr. Barry Wittman  
**E-mail:** [wittman1@otterbein.edu](mailto:wittman1@otterbein.edu)  
**Office:** Art & Communication C123  
**Phone:** (614) 823-2944  
**Office hours:** **MWF** 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.,  
**MW** 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.,  
**F** 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.,  
**T** 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.,  
**TR** 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.,  
and by appointment

#### Text Book

**Required:**  
Brian W. Kernighan and Dennis M. Ritchie  
***The C Programming Language***  
2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 1988, Prentice Hall  
ISBN-13: 978-01311103627

**Optional:**  
Michael Kerrisk  
***The Linux Programming Interface***  
First Edition, 2010, No Starch Press  
ISBN-13: 978-1593272203



## Course Catalog Description

Introduction to the functionality and design of computer systems with an emphasis on computer architecture and operating systems. Topics include the study of digital representation, processor and memory management, system calls, file systems, and socket programming. C is the language of instruction, and the course is conducted in a Linux environment.

## Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- I. Apply knowledge of computing and mathematics, including common data structures and basic algorithms, to solve problems
- II. Design, implement, and evaluate a computer-based system, process, component or program to meet desired needs
- III. Function effectively on teams and use software engineering principles to accomplish a common goal
- IV. Model real-world phenomena mathematically and computationally
- V. Use current techniques, skills and tools necessary for computing practice, including:
  - a. Programming paradigms including procedural and object oriented programming
  - b. Hardware and software elements of data communications and computer networking
- VI. Compare and contrast the features of the Java, C, and C++ programming languages
- VII. Manage memory allocation explicitly
- VIII. Perform low-level file access in programs

## Program Learning Outcomes

The Computer Science major has a set of 10 Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs). Work in this course contributes to the following SLOs:

2. Students can methodically solve algorithmic problems in at least one programming language.
4. Students are proficient in a software development paradigm.
5. Students can apply development practices and processes to a variety of problems.
6. Students can independently learn and apply new methods and tools.
9. Students can effectively collaborate in team projects.

## Method for Determining Course Grade

The final grade for this course will depend upon the grades and scores earned on course components weighted as follows:

- 36%** Six equally weighted team projects  
**Tentative due dates:**
  - Project 1:** 01/24/2025
  - Project 2:** 02/07/2025
  - Project 3:** 02/28/2025
  - Project 4:** 03/21/2025
  - Project 5:** 04/09/2025
  - Project 6:** 04/25/2025
- 15%** In-class labs
- 5%** Tickets out the door
- 30%** Two equally weighted midterm exams
  - Exam 1:** Tentatively scheduled for 02/17/2025
  - Exam 2:** Tentatively scheduled for 03/24/2025
- 14%** **Final Exam:** 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., 05/01/2025

Grades will be computed by rounding numerical percentages to the nearest integer and applying the following table:

<b>A</b>	93-100	<b>B-</b>	80-82	<b>D+</b>	67-69
<b>A-</b>	90-92	<b>C+</b>	77-79	<b>D</b>	60-66
<b>B+</b>	87-89	<b>C</b>	73-76	<b>F</b>	0-59
<b>B</b>	83-86	<b>C-</b>	70-72		

Grades for each project, lab, ticket out the door, and exam will be recorded in [Brightspace](#). Students may compute their current average by using these scores with the weights listed above.

## Attendance and Participation Policy

Attendance is expected of every student at every lecture. Students are responsible for all content covered in class as well as assigned book chapters. Students should come to class with their text books, having read the material to be covered that day. Students who have not prepared for class may be asked to leave. Due to their nature, tickets out the door cannot be made up.

Students are expected to attend in-person class sessions as indicated on the schedule. However, if a student is not feeling well, that student should not come to the in-person class session that day. To catch up on work, students should visit the instructor during office hours or another scheduled meeting time.

Except in the case of documented emergencies, exams cannot be made up afterwards. For excused absences, students must arrange to take the exam or do the lab *before* the normally scheduled time. Arrangements should be made with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the scheduled time.

Students are expected to maintain an attitude of respect at all times toward their colleagues, the equipment, and the instructor. Students are expected to refrain from using technology for non-course-related purposes during class time and will be penalized 1% of the final grade for each occurrence. Students who use offensive language or are otherwise disruptive of the classroom will be asked to leave.

## Expectations for Out-of-Class Work

### Projects

All projects are team projects in this course. For each project, all students must form teams of two (or three in the case of an odd number of students). Students are permitted to select their own teams; however, no two students may partner up for more than one project. In other words, each team will be different for each project. Students should select their teams through [Brightspace](#).

Teams are responsible for dividing their workload. Except under extreme circumstances, all members of the team will receive the same grade for each project. The files for each project should be zipped up and uploaded using [Brightspace](#) before the due date. If the project is late, the group will receive a score of 0. **If the project does not compile, the group will receive a score of 0.**

Projects will be graded based on the following criteria:

1. **Correctness:** Finding the right answer
2. **Formatting:** Displaying the right answer according to instructions
3. **Style and Documentation:** Producing readable code with appropriate comments

Late projects will not be accepted, with the following exception. Each student has 3 grace days. Each grace day may be used to allow a 24-hour extension of a project deadline per grace day. A team wishing to use a grace day must inform the instructor via e-mail *before* the normal deadline. Both students in the team will have the appropriate number of grace days deducted. If the members of a team have different numbers of grace days available, the team will be treated as if it has the maximum number of grace days of any of its members.

## In-class Labs

All labs are to be done individually, in class, with the assistance of the instructor. Each lab will be given near the beginning of a class and must be uploaded to [Brightspace](#) before the end of the class. Exercises submitted after class is over will not be accepted. To receive full credit, a programming assignment must compile, but partial credit will be awarded based on the understanding of the material demonstrated by the student's code.

## Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty includes cheating, complicity, falsification, multiple submission, and plagiarism. To understand better what each of these kinds of dishonesty entails, see the full statement on Academic Dishonesty in the [Campus Life Handbook](#), beginning at the bottom of page 47.

All cases of suspected Academic Dishonesty will be forwarded to Academic Affairs. To learn more about the process, see the above cited section of the [Campus Life Handbook](#). Academic Dishonesty may result in automatic failure of the assignment or the course itself, or even suspension or expulsion proceedings.

You are plagiarizing when you:

- Copy material from a source without using quotation marks and proper citation.
- Follow the movement of the source, substituting words and sentences but keeping its meaning, without citing it.
- Lift phrases or terms from a source and embed them in your own prose without using quotation marks and proper citation.
- Borrow ideas (that are not common knowledge) from a source without proper citation.
- Turn in a paper wholly or partially written by someone else.

If you are uncertain about when and how to cite sources, or what is allowable in completing assignment and exams, please speak with your professor.

All projects must be completed by the students in a given team, without assistance from anyone other than the instructor. Students can discuss the course material with each other, but all work must be done within their team. For projects, exams, labs, and all other activities in the course, students are expected to act according to the official policy on academic dishonesty and the highest standards of personal integrity.

For the first infraction of academic honesty in this course, the instructor will seek a penalty of a 0 for the project, assignment, or exam in question and a reduction of a full letter grade in the final grade. If a

second infraction occurs, the instructor will seek the maximum penalty possible under the University's regulations.

## Generative AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is any computer system designed to perform a cognitive or behavioral task historically believed to be one only humans can perform. Generative AI is a term used for recent AI systems that generate significant quantities of content such as text, images, audio, or video from a short input prompt, usually text.

Although generative AI tools are impressive, they must not be used to write any code that a student is expected to turn in for this class. Generative AI tools may be used to explain existing code or to suggest improvements for code but only *after* the project or lab in question has been turned in. Students who do not write code themselves have missed the opportunity to gain the skills of logical problem solving and translation to a formal programming language that are essential for computer scientists. Submitting work that includes or is derived from AI-generated materials shall be considered an act of academic dishonesty.

## Statement on Credit Hour Definition/Expectation for Student Work

For each credit hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction, students are expected to engage in two hours of out-of-class course-related work (readings, homework, studying, project preparation, etc.). A three-credit hour course requires six hours per week of out-of-class work. These expectations are the same for blended and online courses, with some or all of the direct faculty instruction occurring online instead of in a classroom.

## Nondiscrimination at Otterbein

Otterbein University is committed to providing a welcoming environment free from unlawful discrimination. To this end, the University prohibits any form of discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, sex, gender, pregnancy, religion, creed, marital status, partnership status, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, disability, military status, or any other legally protected status in its programs and activities. All Otterbein faculty and staff share in the responsibility to create a safe learning environment for all students and for the campus as a whole. Students who believe they have been discriminated against should contact the Office of Human Resources, (614) 823-1805 / [hr@otterbein.edu](mailto:hr@otterbein.edu).

Any person may report sexual harassment, sexual violence, dating violence, and stalking by contacting Julie Saker, Deputy Title IX Coordinator at (614) 823-1154 / [jsaker@otterbein.edu](mailto:jsaker@otterbein.edu).

If a student would prefer to share information about sexual harassment, sexual violence or discrimination to a *confidential* employee who does not have a reporting responsibility, they can contact the Counseling Center, (614) 823-1333 / [counseling@otterbein.edu](mailto:counseling@otterbein.edu), or the WGSRC Peer Advocates, [wgsrc@otterbein.edu](mailto:wgsrc@otterbein.edu).

Information about these policies can be found [here](#).

## Disability Services

The University has a continuing commitment to providing access and reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities, including mental health diagnoses and chronic or temporary medical conditions. Students who may need accommodations or would like referrals to explore a potential diagnosis are urged to contact Disability Services (DS) as soon as possible. DS will facilitate accommodations and assist the instructor in minimizing barriers to provide an accessible educational experience. Please contact DS at [DisabilityServices@otterbein.edu](mailto:DisabilityServices@otterbein.edu). More info can also be found [here](#). Your instructor is happy to discuss accommodations privately with you as well.

## Counseling Services

Given the level of uncertainty in the world, many students might experience feelings of threat, fear, and uneasiness. For extra support – in the way of just being able to verbalize your feelings to an interested outsider, gaining some reassurance and validation of your feelings, making plans to move forward optimistically and safely – reach out to any staff. Otterbein staff want to provide not only respect but also verbal and emotional support and encouragement. The Counseling Center can be reached at (614) 823-1333. You can also call or text 988, the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline of Ohio, for 24/7 access to a mental health professional.

## Academic Support Center

The Academic Support Center (ASC) helps students develop and strengthen the skills necessary to attain their academic goals. They support student learning and success through: tutoring, teaching, disability services, and academic coaching. All services are free for Otterbein students. Their purpose is to help students be academically successful. Please contact them to request a tutor or learn more about the ASC by calling (614) 823-1610 or visiting the [ASC website](#).

## Library Services

The Courtright Memorial Library provides a broad range of services and resources, from color printing and a game collection to 24/7 access to more than 220 scholarly databases and e-books [here](#). On-campus students can access in-person help, quiet study spaces, and open computer labs during the library's [open hours](#).

Students can also access the many e-textbooks on reserve by clicking the Course Reserves tab on the library [web page](#) or find help for a specific subject area by searching [LibGuides](#).

Need more help? Students can chat with a librarian by clicking the Ask Me tab on the right side of the library homepage. Students also may e-mail the library at [library@otterbein.edu](mailto:library@otterbein.edu). For in-depth research help, make an appointment for a virtual research consultation with your [personal librarian](#).

## Tentative Schedule

The following is a tentative schedule of the topics to be covered in each week. This schedule is subject to change as need dictates. Students will be informed of changes by the instructor in class. A schedule will be kept on the [course webpage](#).

Week	Starting	Topics	K & R Chapters	LPI Chapters	Notes
1	01/13/25	Introduction	1	1	
2	01/20/25	Data representation	2	11	MLK, Project 1 Due
3	01/27/25	Control flow	2, 3	2, 3	
4	02/03/25	Functions	4	6	Project 2 Due
5	02/10/25	Arrays and Strings	4, 5		
6	02/17/25	Pointers	5		Exam 1
7	02/24/25	Memory allocation	5	7	Project 3 Due
8	03/03/25	Structs	6	8, 10	
	03/10/25	<b>Spring Break</b>			
9	03/17/25	Advanced structs	6		Project 4 Due
10	03/24/25	Files and streams	7	4	Exam 2
11	03/31/25	File systems		5, 13, 14, 15	
12	04/07/25	Networking	5	56, 57, 58, 59	Project 5 Due
13	04/14/25	C++		Notes	Good Friday
14	04/21/25	Review	All	All	Project 6 Due