Instructor: William R. Nico
Office: Warren Hall 775
Phone: (510)885-3386 (leave messages at main office: (510)885-3414)
E-mail: nico@csuhayward.edu (From any mcs machine just “nico” will do.)
Web: www.mcs.csuhayward.edu/~nico
Office hours: MW 1:00–2:30 p.m. or by appointment
Recommended: Any “user’s level” guide to UNIX, if one is unfamiliar with basic UNIX usage. There are many on the market.

This course will study the facilities of a particular operating system—UNIX—at the level of the “system call.” This includes the handling of files, processes, peripheral devices, etc. To carry out this study, we will write a number of programs in C (or C++) which use UNIX system calls to perform various tasks. These programs must be able to run on one or more of the departmental Solaris UNIX systems.

Students should be familiar with the basics of UNIX at the “user” level and with the rudiments of C programming, but some of each will be reviewed.

A large number of sample programs will be provided for inspection and alteration on line. Although these may be introduced and discussed briefly in class, students are expected to examine them outside of class to understand why they work or don’t work.

Grading: The course grade will be computed roughly as follows. (The dates of the midterms are subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class.)

- Programs .......................................................... 40%
- Midterm (Monday, April 26) .................................. 15%
- Midterm (Monday, May 10) ................................. 15%
- Final Exam (Wednesday, June 9, 9:00–10:50 am) .................. 30%
- NOTE: Regardless of the above, in order to pass the course a student must demonstrate a substantial attempt to complete the programs assigned.

Programs: A number of programs will be assigned during the course. Due dates will be announced when the assignments are made. Programs must be submitted in both paper and electronic form. (Instructions for electronic submission will be provided.) Late programs will be penalized 5% per calendar day (including weekend days—the date on an electronic submission can establish the day.). Programs later than one week will not be accepted. All programs must be in by the last day of class, regardless of the above.

Written work: Any written work submitted for the course, including in-class tests, must be done in ink!

Advice and Consultation: The programming projects are to be individual efforts, not group efforts. This means that there should be no sharing of code; such sharing constitutes academic dishonesty, as described in the CSUH Catalog. “High level” discussion of algorithms (such as takes place in class) is acceptable, but detailed discussion is not. Any essential code included from sample programs must be properly acknowledged in comments.

Make-up policy: Make-up tests will be considered only in unusual circumstances, and then only if arrangements have been made in advance.