E85 Course Updates

Last updated: 3/26/20

Lectures

Lectures will be live-streamed via Zoom (https://zoom.us/j/602578040) and recorded so you can view them later online. Links to the lectures will be included on the website once they are available.

Lecture notes will continue to be available online as Powerpoint and PDF files prior to lecture.

Syllabus

Revised syllabus available here.

Office Hours

Office hour times have been rescheduled and will be held via Zoom. They can also be set up by appointment if the times available don't work for you. The grutors hours are currently being rescheduled and the Tau Beta Pi tutors will be available via email.

Course Schedule

Please find a revised and updated syllabus on the course website. A few notable changes:

- Updated schedule with new due dates.
- We are dropping the embedded systems material because the hardware labs are unavailable and are shifting the time to cover architecture and microarchitecture. Students interested in embedded systems can learn it in MicroPs (E155) or by experimenting with single board computers on their own time.
- Lab 6 is the only remaining required lab.
- Labs 10 and 11 are now optional. If you do choose to submit them, they can help your grade, but not hurt it (i.e., if they would lower your grade, they will simply be dropped).

Grading

- Due to the changes in the course the grading scheme has been updated. Problem sets are now worth more (30% of final) and labs less (20% of final) compared to the previous policy to reflect the change in focus.
- Problem sets and labs will be submitted via Sakai and are due by 8:10 am PT on their due date. The course should already be set up and the assignments available for the rest of the semester. Please contact Prof. Brake if you have any trouble accessing the Sakai site.

- The extension policy has been updated. The original policy of a blanket 1-week extension is no longer in place but has been replaced by a more flexible policy. If you need an extension, you should request it from Prof. Brake via email. You should include a short explanation for why you are requesting it (e.g., I'm sick, overloaded with coursework, etc.) and a new proposed due date by which you think you'll be able to submit the assignment. Extensions will be generously granted as long as you are making a good faith effort to complete the assignment. The goal of this policy is to offer flexibility given what we know may be challenging circumstances while helping to prevent you from falling behind in a fast-moving class.
- No late work will be accepted after May 1st.
- Pass/No Credit is available on written request no later than April 29 if the student has health, family, network, or other difficulties that prevent them from giving the class their normal level of attention. As a reminder, a C- or better equivalent grade would become Pass, and a D+ or lower would count as No Credit.

Study Groups

With the move to online coursework and with the above collaboration guidelines in place, we strongly encourage you to set up virtual study groups with your classmates. If you do not have an already established study group, you may want to email the class (eng-85-1-2020-sp@g.hmc.edu) to see if there are others in the class that may wish to study with you.

Computer access for Labs 6, 10, and 11

- You will need access to a computer to run PlatformIO (Mac, Windows, or Linux) to complete Lab 6 and Quartus Prime and Modelsim (Windows or Linux) to complete labs 10 and 11. If you don't have access to a computer which can run these programs easily, we can set up remote access to one of the digital lab computers for you (instructions for setting up here). If you need remote access to complete the labs, please contact Prof. Brake via email and he will assign you an IP address for a remote machine to use.