

# CSC 458: Current Topics in Computer Systems – Concurrent Programming

## Instructional Information

Professor: Aaron Keen

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Office hours: M: 1–2pm , T: 2–3pm , W: 2–3pm , F: 1–3pm

or by appointment

Course Webpage: <http://www.csc.calpoly.edu/~akeen/courses/csc458>

## Lecture Time and Location

- MWF 10:10 am – 11:00 am, 14-248
- MWF 11:10 am – 12:00 pm, 14-303 (lab)

## Course Objectives

- Appreciation for the challenges of concurrent programming.
- Exploration of synchronization strategies.
- Exploration of decomposition approaches.
- Exposure to some popular and emerging technologies.

**Prerequisites:** CSC/CPE 453

## Reading Materials

Materials will be linked from the course webpage.

## Webpage

Clarifications, changes, etc. regarding the class and assignments will be posted to the course webpage (<http://www.csc.calpoly.edu/~akeen/courses/csc458>). Read it regularly, especially near when assignments are due. You are responsible for any announcements posted on the course website.

## Activities

### Class Participation

The lectures are for your benefit. You should ask questions when you have them. I am more than willing to cover, in addition to the scheduled material, topics in which you are specifically interested, but you have to let me know what those topics are.

### Labs

Lab assignments are a means to learn new topics in the context of small programs. There will be multiple lab assignments during the quarter, but no more than an average of one per week. It will be possible, for the most part, to complete these assignments during the designated lab days.

### Assignments

There will be three (3) programming projects. These projects will require more time to complete than most lab assignments. You will be expected to work on these assignments outside of lab hours.

### Short Reports

Though there is no required textbook or assigned reading, frequently throughout the quarter you will be required to write short reports on various topics.

These reports should be no longer than two (2) pages in length. The research for these reports must be cited. Grammar, spelling, and formatting (do not submit a plain text file) will be considered when these reports are graded.

### Exams

There will be one midterm and one final exam.

### Grading

The percentage breakdown for the course grade is as follows.

Activity	% total	
Labs	20	
Short Reports	15	
Projects	30	
Midterm	15	
Final	20	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	

Performance on the exams, especially the final, will weigh more heavily in assigning course grades in *borderline* cases.

A significant difference between homework scores and exam scores may result in an alternate grading scheme. For example, someone that scores 100% on all homework assignments yet fails both exams will fail the course. Make sure that you understand the homework assignments.

Simplicity, presentation, and neatness of your solutions are considered in the grading of assignments and exams.

What you turn in is exactly what will be graded. Be sure to turn in what you intend us to grade, e.g., all required parts and the correct version.

At a **minimum**, your solution to a programming assignment **must** load and compile to be considered for grading. Those that do not meet this minimum criterion will be returned with a score of zero. **Test your programs.**

### Regrades

In general, assignments to be considered for regrades must be submitted no later than one week after the graded assignments were made available. However, at the end of the quarter, assignments to be considered for regrades must be turned in earlier, as will be announced. The same is true for misrecorded grades. Scores for each assignment will be posted on Blackboard which is accessible from the MyCalPoly web page (<http://my.calpoly.edu>). Please check them to be sure they agree with your own records.

### Due Dates and Lateness

Programming assignments are to be turned in electronically. Assignments must be turned in ON TIME to receive credit. Except in the most extreme situations, **late assignments will not be accepted.**

If you cannot complete an assignment by the due date, hand in whatever you have done in order to receive partial credit. **Receiving partial credit, however, should not be your goal.**

Again, be certain that what you submit compiles.

## Missed Exams

Make-up or early exams will not be given except in the most extreme situations. If you must miss an exam due to extreme illness, etc. contact the instructor (by phone or by e-mail) or leave a message with the Department of Computer Science office (805-756-2824) *before* the exam. Be sure to leave both the reason for missing the exam and how to reach you.

## Collaboration and Cheating

### Policy on Collaboration

Each student is to do his or her own work on the assignments and exams. It is fine to talk with others about general approaches used to solve the assignments, *but* each student is to develop his/her own solution; collaborative efforts are **not** allowed. Students are not to view any other student's program code or exchange program code in any form (hardcopy or electronically). Sharing pseudo-code is not allowed.

In addition, using solutions from any other source is forbidden; in particular, using solutions (either instructors' or other students') from previous offerings of this course is not allowed. Using solutions found on the Internet is not allowed. Referring to previous solutions while developing your solution is not allowed.

Collaboration that goes beyond a high-level discussion of general approaches will be considered cheating. If you are unsure about what constitutes proper or improper collaboration, consult the instructor for guidance.

The exams are open book and open note, but there are restrictions on the materials you may bring to the exam. Copies of previous exams are not allowed under any circumstances.

To summarize: all assignments and exams are to be *individual* and *original* efforts.

### Policy on Cheating

**Don't.** Any instance of cheating or plagiarism will be referred to the Campus Student Relations and Judicial Affairs Office. The Cal Poly rules and policies are available on the CSRJA web site, <http://www.calpoly.edu/~saffairs/csrja/index.html>. Ask the instructor for clarification *beforehand* if the above rules are not clear.

## The Last Page

This page is so I can gather a little information about you at the beginning of the class. Please fill it out, tear it off and leave it with me on the way out.

### Who are you?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Section: \_\_\_\_\_  
Major: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Enrollment:  Enrolled  
 Enrolled, thinking about dropping  
 Thinking about signing up

### Class Expectations?

Please take a minute to write out what your goals and expectations are for CSC 458. What do you want to learn? What do you expect to learn? Are these the same thing?