ECE 4750 Computer Architecture, Fall 2022

Next Steps

School of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Cornell University

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Regardless of whether or not your are officially enrolled in this course, if you are interested in taking this course for either credit or as an auditor you must go through the following steps.

1. Sign-up on the waitlist

The course has reached its enrollment cap. If you would like to take this course but are not enrolled, then sign-up using the waitlist by emailing ugrad-coordinator@ece.cornell.edu Only use the online waitlist if you are intending to enroll for credit. Official auditors are only allowed if there is space once everyone that wants to enroll for credit has done so. Students will be contacted in first-come/first-served order as spots open up in the course.

2. Speak with instructor if you have a conflict with discussion section

Students are expected to make every effort to attend the discussion section. However, if you have a legitimate course conflict with the discussion section please speak with the instructor. We don't want anyone not to be able to take ECE 4750 because of a conflict with the discussion section.

3. Verify you can view the Canvas course site and Ed discussion forum

We will be using Canvas for distributing course materials, collecting assignments, and distributing grades. Please make sure that if you are officially enrolled in the course you can view this course in Canvas. We will be using Ed for all announcements, online discussion, and most student/instructor communication. Students officially enrolled should already be automatically added to the Ed discussion forum for this course. Please use the link in Canvas to make sure you can view the Ed discussion forum.

4. Read the course syllabus

The course syllabus contains essential information about the course motivation, structure, procedures, and policies. It will be assumed that all students have read and understand all of the material in the course syllabus. We will not waste lecture time repeating what is in the syllabus, so it is difficult to stress how important it is to read the entire syllabus!

5. Prepare for first quiz

There will be a short five-minute quiz at the very beginning of lecture on Wednesday, August 24th on the three eras of computer architecture and on the ECE 4750 collaboration policy as described in the course syllabus. You should read the slides from the first lecture and the course syllabus to prepare.

6. Work through lab tutorials

We are preparing several tutorials covering remote access to the ecelinux servers, the Linux development environment, Git version control, and Verilog. The tutorials have critical information. Please work through these tutorials when they are posted on Canvas.

7. Read Chapter 1 of Hennessy and Patterson

The course textbook is *"Computer Architecture: A Quantitative Approach, 5th Edition,"* by J. L. Hennessy and D. A. Patterson (Morgan Kaufmann, 2012). For your convenience, the first chapter is available on Canvas under readings.

8. Review background material as necessary

Students which are less confident of their mastery of the material covered in the pre-requisite courses should probably begin reviewing the material in *"Digital Design and Computer Architecture, 2nd Edition,"* by D. Harris and S. Harris (Morgan Kaufmann, 2012). If a student has less experience working with Verilog but still wants to use this language, then they are strongly encouraged to read Chapter 4 in Harris and Harris on digital design with Verilog and/or to review the optional text "Verilog HDL: A Guide to Digital Design and Synthesis, 2nd edition" by S. Palnitkar (Prentice Hall, 2003). Students who have never used Python before may want to spend additional time reviewing the optional text-book titled "Think Python: How to Think Like a Computer Scientist" by A. B. Downey (Green Tea Press, 2014). These materials are available through the library and/or on Canvas.

9. Fill out online form with your GitHub username

If you do not already have a GitHub account, go to `https://github.com/join`. Make sure you use your `netid@cornell.edu` email address if you are creating a new account. Your NetID makes a good GitHub username. Then go to `http://www.csl.cornell.edu/courses/ece4750/githubid` and fill out the sign-up form with your NetID and GitHub username. This will allow the instructors to add your GitHub account to the GitHub organization created for this course. **Note that we are not using the Cornell hosted version of GitHub as in some other courses; we are using** `github.com`**.**

10. Begin selecting a group for the lab assignments

The lab assignments are specifically designed to be a reasonable amount of work for two students working together. Students can either form their own group or have the instructor form a group for them. If you would like the instructor to form a group for you, then please submit a request using the online form located here `http://www.csl.cornell.edu/courses/ece4750/labgroup` by 11:59pm on Wednesday, August 31st. Groups will be announced the following day. Only submit a request if you are formally enrolled in the course. You should complete the tutorials *and* you should start working on the first lab assignment even before groups are assigned!

11. Attend discussion section on Friday in 165 Olin Hall

Students are expected to attend the weekly discussion section. This week will be reviewing the Linux development environment we will be using in the lab assignments. Even if you are experience in Linux you should still come. We need to make sure you can access the ecelinux servers and the GitHub organization we will be using in this course. The discussion section is on Friday from 2:40–3:30pm in 165 Olin Hall. Please bring your laptop.