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ECE251, Computer Architecture – Syllabus, Spring 2018

tldr: We will introduce the concepts relevant to the analysis of computer architectures, and the fundamentals required for design. Course deliverables will primarily be written prose analyses.

Instructor Chris Curro, EE '15, MEE '16; chris@curro.cc

Textbook David A. Patterson and John L. Hennessy. 2014. *Computer Organization and Design, Fifth Edition, Fifth Edition: The Hardware/Software Interface* (The Morgan Kaufmann Series in Computer Architecture and Design) (5th ed.). Morgan Kaufmann Publishers Inc., San Francisco, CA, USA.

Assignments There will be 3-4 written assignments focusing on the analysis of computer code at the CPU level. Insight into concepts such as memory hierarchy, pipelining, branch prediction, locality and others is expected. Assignments are due at 5pm on the assigned day (will always be a Monday). Please submit by email and bring a paper copy to class.

Exams There will be a final exam which will be structured similarly to the home assignments. There is no midterm exam.

Grading Grading breakdown in table at bottom of page. If you fail to submit an assignment you will fail the course. Unexcused late assignments will have a single letter grade deducted per 2 days late. The maximum grade for any tardy assignment is a B.

Attendance We will not take attendance, but it may factor into your participation score. Participation score is multifaceted. We will discuss this during the first class.

Office hours We will arrive at an appropriate schedule during the first class. Expect about 2 hours per week. Additional hours by appointment.

Google group Expect communication via this Google group. Be sure to select to receive all emails when you sign up.
<https://groups.google.com/d/forum/curro-comp-arch-2018>

Grading	
Assignments	65%
Final Exam	25%
Participation	10%
