

Summary of Student Reviews
 IS631 Operating Systems
 Fall 2001

Total Collected:	18 evaluations		
Statistical Summary		Total Agree	Total Disagree
I – The Course			
	The objectives of this course were clear.	18 (100%)	0
	The course has satisfied the objectives.	18 (100%)	0
	I would recommend this course to other students.	18 (100%)	0
II – The Instructor			
	The instructor was well-prepared and organized.	18 (100%)	0
	The instructor explained material clearly and thoroughly.	18 (100%)	0
	The classes were interesting and informative.	18 (100%)	0
	The instructor encouraged questions, comments, and discussion.	18 (100%)	0
	The instructor seems knowledgeable in the subject area.	18 (100%)	0
	The instructor made effective use of class time.	18 (100%)	0
	The course requirements and grading system were made clear from the beginning.	18 (100%)	0
	Assignments were educational.	18 (100%)	0
	Exams were fair and reflected course content.	17 (94%)	0
	Office hours were made known and the instructor was available at those hours.	17 (94%)	0
	The instructor displayed respect for each student.	18 (100%)	0
	The instructor seems to know if the class understands.	17 (94%)	0
III – The Text			
	The text was useful.	18 (100%)	0
IV - The Academic Computing Facilities			
	Computer facilities were adequate for class work.	14 (77%)	0
	Lab consultants' support was adequate.	10 (55%)	0
V – The Classroom Lab			
	If the class instruction was held in a computer classroom, the computer facilities were adequate.	10 (55%)	0

Positive student comments [What did you find most valuable about this course?]:

- 1) The lab work.
- 2) It covers many OS. Very good clear. Basics of operating systems.
- 3) We had lab session in the classroom that helps to gain practical knowledge. In this area like any computer related course, practice knowledge is always welcome. This class is very helpful.
- 4) Covered new topic not previously exposed to.
- 5) On hand computer experience.
- 6) The instructor was very knowledgeable of the course! He always knew what was going on.

Comments concerning areas for improvement [What suggestions can you offer to improve this course?]:

- 1) The textbook could have been more detailed.
- 2) Add more labs in this course. It'll be better if we use half time in theory and half lab in each class.
- 3) Work with one OS at a time, i.e. learn DOS bottom up and then compare w/ next.
- 4) Make it a bit more on hand.

Analysis of Evaluations

Lab work

The labs were extremely successful and left people wanting more. The course was not run in a computer classroom. Computers were moved into the class and preconfigured with tutorials and labs. The labs included hands-on experience with Windows 2000, Windows NT, Redhat Linux, FreeBSD, and Solaris. Like many of my students, I would have liked more hands-on time as well.

Organization

I organized the class according to OS concept: process management, memory management, file systems, etc. The focus of the course was theory despite the hands-on component. In the future, consider breaking class into theory and practice treating each OS as a case study. Possible to accommodate OS structure for course in addition to current structure.

Content and Textbook

Tried to supplement materials from multiple textbooks including Tanenbaum and proprietary documents: Microsoft, Sun, etc. Textbook was a trade-off between more and less technical materials. Tough call. Review current texts again.