Textbook

Reading assignments will be announced in class as we progress through the semester. I also may assign a few paper or two to read towards the end of the semester (late November) as we cover OSes and Networking.

Assignments and Grading

Your grade for this course will be comprised of four components:

- Class Attendance/Quizzes 10%
- Midterm Exam: 25%
- Final Exam: 35%
- Homework: 30%

Homeworks

There are five homework assignments in this course, each of which counts equally towards your grade. The due dates for your homework assignments are as follows:

1. September 12th
2. October 1st
3. October 10th
4. October 27th
5. November 25th

All homework assignments are due at 11:59:59 PM on the date indicated. Your homework submissions must either be plain text or pdfs (all source code must be in plain text of course). Word Documents will not be accepted.
You will perform your homeworks in groups of 2 or 3. You will keep the same groups for the duration of the semester, except under extreme circumstances (talk to me if you really need to change).

Each group has five (5) late days (days, not classes) for the entire semester. These are intended to cover most any situation that might arise (illness, family emergency, etc...). You may use these freely during the semester on any homework(s) you want/need to. Once you use these up, no late work will be accepted. If someone in your group has long term extenuating circumstances, please contact me and we will make appropriate arrangements.

You will demo all assignments (VHDL or MIPS) to a TA within 1 week of the due date. If you use late days for an assignment, it does NOT push back the demo deadline, only the submission deadline. During the demo, the TA will ask members of your group questions about how the code works. The TA will direct a question to a specific group member, who must be able to answer it, or the person will lose points (you must all be familiar with the workings of your entire project).

Exams

You will have one mid-term exam (during recitation on Friday October 31st), and one final exam (during the scheduled final exam time slot). These exams will be individual effort. You may bring one page (8.5x11) of notes to use during the exam. This page may be hand-written, typed, or a combination of each. The exams will be closed book.

Lecture Attendance and Quizzes

I expect you to attend class regularly, but do understand that occasionally circumstances arise where you must miss a lecture or two.

I will give 8 small quizzes in lecture through the course of the semester. Of these, the lowest 2 will be dropped and the remaining 10 will count towards your grade. You will receive 50% of the points for the quiz simply by being in lecture and turning in a piece of paper with your name on it. The remaining 50% will come from answering the questions correctly.

These questions will mostly check if you are paying attention to what I am talking about, and understanding it at a basic level. I recommend asking questions on any material you are unclear on, as well as doing assigned readings in advance (and asking questions about them) to ensure you are prepared when a quiz is given.

You may use any written materials (textbook, course notes, slide printouts, etc.) that you have with you, but may not use interactive electronic (Google, Wikipedia, smartphones, calculators, computers) or human resources (friends, classmates, homework group members) during these quizzes. You may use a laptop or tablet to view the course lecture slides, but may not use any other application on that device during the quiz.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is very important, and misconduct will not be tolerated in this course. All students should already be aware of a few basic principles which govern academic integrity at Duke in general:
I will not lie, cheat, or steal in my academic endeavors, nor will I accept the actions of those who do.

I will conduct myself responsibly and honorably in all my activities as a Duke student.

If I suspect academic misconduct in my class, I will report you to the appropriate Associate Dean, who will carry out the required due process to determine if you committed academic misconduct. If you are found responsible for academic misconduct, I will give you a 0 on the corresponding assignment. The Associate Dean overseeing your case may impose additional sanctions against you.

Some concrete expectations for how you will perform your work in my class:

**Homeworks**

Your homeworks will be done in groups of 2 or 3—you are supposed to collaborate freely within your group. You should not, however, discuss the specifics of homework solutions with other students outside your group. You may discuss general class materials (how does a flip flop work, why is edge triggered logic important, what is the benefit of a set associative cache), but should not exchange specific solutions, and especially not code. You may (and should) discuss your homework with your TAs and professor.

You may use outside resources for general information (VHDL syntax, DE2 board users manual, etc), but should cite anything you use in your homework. Note that this does not mean that you can download code and use it.

**Exams**

Exams are expected to be entirely individual effort. You may use no outside resources (no textbook, no collaboration with classmates, no internet references, no smartphone apps, etc...) except for the 1 page of notes described above.

**Mini-Quizzes**

You may use hard-copy written resources on the 8 mini-quizzes given throughout the semester (books, notes, print outs of lecture slides), but you may not use interactive electronic resources (computers, smart phones, internet) and you may not collaborate with other people (e.g., classmates). The exception to the electric devices rule is that you may view the course lecture slides on your laptop or tablet.

**Other**

If you are unsure if something is OK, please ask me. If you do not want to ask me because you think I will probably say “no,” that is a good indicator that it is not acceptable.

If you do something wrong and regret it, please come forward. I recognize the value and learning benefit of admitting your mistakes. You should not take this to mean that coming forward of your own volition will absolve you of all consequences, just that it can be taken into account in reducing the sanctions.

If you are aware of someone else’s misconduct, please report it to me or another appropriate authority. Note that this carries even more weight if the misconduct occurs within your own
homework group: if you are aware that a member of your group committed academic misconduct in the completion of an assignment with your name on it, and you do not report it, you are complicit in the misconduct.