Syllabus

Instructor
Jens-Peter Kaps
Engineering Building, 3222
Phone: (703) 993-1611
jkaps@gmu.edu
http://ece.gmu.edu/~jkaps

Date & Time & Place
Tuesdays, 4:30pm– 7:10pm, Engineering Building 1103

Course Web Page
The course web page will contain the latest announcements, handouts, assignments, source code
and useful/interesting web links.
The web page is accessible via http://ece.gmu.edu/~jkaps/courses/ece511

Textbooks
- John Hennessy and David Patterson, Computer Architecture: A Quantitative Approach by
You can find links to more interesting books on the class home page.

Prerequisite
Undergraduate knowledge of microprocessors and computer organization.

Office Hours
Tuesday 2:30pm–3:30pm, Thursday 2:30pm–3:30pm, Engineering Building 3222 or by appointment.

Homework
There will be about six homework assignments. These will include questions, and programming
exercises. Homework must be handed in on time. Only if you can’t make it to the class, please
e-mail it to me. Homework handed in after solutions are posted will receive zero credit.

Examinations
There will be two exams during the course, a midterm exam and a final exam. The midterm exam
will be closed books and closed notes, the final exam will be open book and open notes. The
questions will range from mild to difficult.

- Midterm Exam: October 22nd
- Final Exam: December 10th
Project
An important part of this course is the semester project. This semester the project will focus on
the MSP430 microcontroller. Each project will be completed in groups of up to four students. Each
group will propose a project that uses the TI MSP430 LaunchPad and additional peripherals such
as sensors, keypads, displays, etc. Towards the end of the semester, you will be required to perform
a final presentation of your project.

- **Project Proposal Due:** September 17th
- **1st Progress Report:** October 8th
- **2nd Progress Report:** November 12th
- **Presentation:** December 3th

Grading
The following weight distribution will be used to calculate the final grade:

- 10% Homework
- 35% Project
- 25% Midterm Examination
- 30% Final Examination

Schedule
Please visit the class webpage for the most up-to-date schedule.

Honor Code
All rules of the GMU Honor Code system will be in effect. You must review the rules and be
familiar with them. You are encouraged to discuss homework problems and projects with other
students and/or obtain the assistance of the instructor. Nevertheless, you must write down your
own homework solutions which represent your understanding of the material. Projects must be
completed by each group individually. No part of a project submission can be copied from another
group of the class or any other source. Duplicating someone else’s work such as but not limited to
homework solutions, hard-ware/software designs, diagrams, source code, project reports, and exam
notes, is considered cheating. If you use material from other sources such as but not limited to the
web, books, journals, data sheets, etc. you must reference the source. Honor code violations will
be followed up with full force.

Classroom Etiquette
Cellphones, pagers have to be put into silent mode. If you have an emergency need to answer a call
please quietly leave the room BEFORE answering the call. Lectures may not be recorded without
express written permission from the instructor.

Students with Disabilities
If you need special assistance, please inform the instructor within the first 3 weeks of classes so
that we can work something out.