

Instructor: Philip Geyer  
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Office hours: Tuesday 12:30-1:00, 3:00-6:00 PM  
Wednesday 5-6:00 PM  
Thursday 12:30-1:00 PM

#### COURSE OVERVIEW:

This course introduces Linux and UNIX tools to both experienced computer users and to students with only a basic knowledge of computers. The course covers: orientation to Linux and UNIX; the UNIX file system; mail; a standard UNIX editor; text and information processing; file and directory organization with the commands for their management and manipulation, standard UNIX utilities, and a brief introduction to X Windows. Students will write simple UNIX shell programs using the bash shell. This course is designed to help prepare students for the LPI Linux Essentials Certificate. **WARNING** – Students generally regard this class as challenging and time consuming.

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

As a result of taking this course the student will be able to:

1. Understand the basic functions of the UNIX operating system.
2. Be able to utilize UNIX man to get on-line help.
3. Use simple Unix commands to send and receive electronic messages and mail.
4. Use the standard UNIX editors.
5. Use standard UNIX text processing utilities.
6. Understand UNIX file and directory structures.
7. Manage and manipulate UNIX files and directories.
8. Know and use standard UNIX utilities and commands such as pipes and filters.
9. Write and use simple shell scripts.
10. Be able to redirect input and output.
11. Use positional parameters and arguments with shell scripts.
12. Perform basics tasks in Linux.
13. Perform basic tasks in X Windows

#### COURSE MATERIALS:

Required Linux Essentials by Roderick W Smith  
Textbooks Sybex/Wiley ISBN 978-1-118-10679-2

Visual Quickstart Guide - UNIX and Linux by Deborah S. Ray and Eric J. Ray  
Peachpit Press ISBN 978-0-321-63678-2

#### SOFTWARE:

You do not need to have Linux installed at home to take this course. You should download Libre Office on to your home computer. Go to: [www.libreoffice.org](http://www.libreoffice.org) All documents for this class were developed using Libre Office 4. You are also encouraged to use Firefox as your browser, although this is less important than using Libre Office.

**TIME COMMITMENT:**

This is a four credit course in a 15 week format. This course may require 5-12 hours per week. If you are not able to commit this much time to the class, I suggest that you withdraw and take it in a later semester.

**EXPECTATIONS and AVAILABILITY of INSTRUCTOR:**

I expect that you will be regularly checking your email during the week. I will generally respond to email in a timely fashion. If you do not receive a reply after 24 hours, feel free to resend your email.

**EMAIL COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES:**

- You may email me using my college email ([pgeyer@wccnet.edu](mailto:pgeyer@wccnet.edu)) or my cidermill account. Do not send an email to both accounts.
- Use only your WCC email account when communicating with me.
- Always provide a clear subject line that includes your course, section number, and any other relevant information such as assignment name or number.
- When asking a question about an exercise problem, copy the problem text into your email.
- Always sign with your full name.

**GRADING:** The following activities are the means by which the above skills and proficiencies will be demonstrated:

**Quizzes:** Generally one or more quizzes will be given every week except, perhaps, when there is an exam. If you don't take a quiz, your grade for that quiz will be a zero. **THERE ARE NO MAKEUPS!** The lowest quiz score will be dropped. Quizzes will generally be done at home and will be timed. Any quiz not done by the due date and time will get a zero. Quizzes will generally be due by 11:59 PM on Sundays. Most quizzes will be taken on Aardvark and you will be able to review your results after they have been graded.

**Lab/Homework Exercises:** Hand written lab assignments and homework will not be accepted. (Except for diagrams) Each assignment must be labeled with the student's name, instructor's name, date, course number, section number, and the assignment number. All pages should be labeled appropriately and answers numbered to match the assignment questions. Work that is difficult to follow will be penalized. Homework will generally be due by 11:59 PM on Thursdays. Solutions will be generally be made available the next day. Most exercises will be upload to Blackboard.

**Two Exams:** Exams are cumulative and will be given in the Testing Center. Generally they take about 45-90 minutes to complete. These exam will use Aardvark. You may create a single page of notes (cheat sheet) for the exams. It may be 8 1/2 x 11 inches. One side only. It must be something that YOU create, not gotten from a friend or the internet. These sheets will be collected by the Testing Center and sent to the instructor. For information about the Testing Center, go to: <http://www4.wccnet.edu/studentservices/otherservices/testingcenter/index.php>

All lab assignments, homework, quizzes and exams are to be done individually. Although general discussion among students is encouraged, students who rely upon the work of others or who share their work with others will be subject to consequences ranging from loss of points to expulsion from the class or college. Answers should be in your own words. Copying from the

textbooks or internet may result in a failing course grade. Assignments not uploaded by the due date and time will receive NO points.

There are no “make-up exams” except under very special circumstances which generally must include the student contacting the instructor BEFORE the exam. The decision on whether to allow a “make-up exam” rests with the instructor. The Final Exam is cumulative and will have a two hour maximum.

It is the student’s responsibility to take the quizzes and exams and to be aware of any changes in the schedule. “But the schedule said...” is not a valid excuse for missing an exam or an assignment when email changes have been sent out.

Lab exercises and homework assignments will be considered on time only if they are handed in **PRIOR to the deadline**. The tardy penalty is 100%. You get one “Get Out of Tardy Free” card which can be used to forgive one assignment that is up to a week late. Assignment are usually uploaded to Blackboard, but watch for exceptions.

Expected formula for the final grade for course:

Quizzes	25 %
Lab Exercises/Homework	25 %
Mid-term Exam	20 %
Final Exam	30 %
	100 %

This formula may be adjusted depending on the number of quizzes, assignments, etc. and their difficulty. The grades for this class will range from A and A- through F. B, C, and D will have both plus(+) and minus(-) modifiers. In general, grading ranges follow the pattern: >92.9% = A, >89.9% = A-, >86.9% = B+, etc. However, there will be curving of the ranges depending upon exam difficulty. The instructor reserves the option of issuing “AU”, “W”, or “N” grades as seems appropriate given a specific student’s circumstances. **Anytime that you are wondering about how you are doing in the course, please don't hesitate to ask by email.** WARNING: If you disappear during the semester, you may receive an “F”.

The last day to drop this class and get most money refunded is September 1<sup>st</sup>. The last day to withdraw is October 16<sup>th</sup>. A withdraw requires that you still pay for the class and a “W” will appear on your transcript. See: <http://www.wccnet.edu/studentconnection/registration/drop/> for details.

Students are expected to be familiar with and follow WCC policies and guidelines including the WCC Students Rights and Responsibilities Policy  
<http://www.wccnet.edu/trustees/policies/4095/>

and the WCC Computing Resources Usage Policy  
<http://www4.wccnet.edu/resources/computerresources/computerpolicies/index.php> Failure to do so may result in expulsion from class, a failing grade and other consequences.

If you need an academic accommodation because of a disability or need other academic assistance, please make an appointment with a counselor in Learning Support Services (LA-104,

973-3342) to verify the disability and arrange accommodations.  
(<http://www4.wccnet.edu/resources/learningassistance/learningsupport>)

PLEASE NOTE: Expect changes in the content and the timing during the course. I will try to be fair, but please remember, you are responsible for knowing of any modifications to the schedule. “But the schedule said...” is not a valid excuse.

## **AARDVARK**

All quizzes and exams will use aardvark. The website is:  
[gettysburg.wccnet.edu/aa/web/pgeyer](http://gettysburg.wccnet.edu/aa/web/pgeyer) Note: No www. at the front of this URL  
Make sure that you select “Student Login” from the line for your section of the class.  
Just like Blackboard, aardvark uses your WCC name (lower case) and password.

Important: When taking an Aardvark quiz or exam, it is suggested that you frequently hit the “SAVE” button that is at the top of the quiz or exam. If the quiz times out before you hit “SUBMIT”, Aardvark will use the last saved version. It DOES NOT automatically upload your work when you hit the time limit.

## **WORKING ON THE MODULES:**

The material for this course has been divided into 17 modules. They are numbered from 1 to 13 and A to D. On Blackboard, you will find A-D after module 13. Each module will have one or more exercises and usually one quiz. The modules will also include one or more videos and an accompanying presentation (.odp and/or .pdf) file. For each on-line module, you are expected to watch the videos, read the reading assignments, complete the exercises and take the quizzes by the completion date on the schedule.

Exercises can be found on Blackboard. Your answers should be uploaded to Blackboard unless the instructions say otherwise. Remember: Late work is not accepted.

## **CIDERMILL:**

Cidermill is a UNIX server that is available to you 24/7. Every student will have their own cidermill account. I will be informing you of your account number over the next day or so. Your account number will be c121xx. (The xx will be replaced by two digits, unique to you.) Your password will be the last 6 digits of your student ID. One of the first things that you will learn is how to change your password. Most of the homework will use cidermill or NetLabs.

NetLabs is a virtual environment that you will use for some exercises. It is generally available to you, but times must be scheduled. Initially it will not be available to you. I'll keep you posted.

## **GETTING HELP:**

For Blackboard problems, check out the Resources & Help tab in Blackboard. You can also email [blackboard@wccnet.edu](mailto:blackboard@wccnet.edu) or call 734-477-8724.

I try to be **VERY** available. I respond pretty well to email. I am very open to meeting with you

on campus. One of the best ways to communicate is by email. You should use your WCC email account. Don't expect all notices to be emailed, a lot of information is in Blackboard. It is YOUR responsibility to stay informed about what is happening.

There are student sessions on campus during the week. Details will be made available once the schedule is set,

If you have questions or concerns about an exam, quiz or graded assignment, you must talk with me about it within a week of the graded version becoming available to you. After that, I am willing to discuss things with you, but grades will not be changed.

If you ever have questions about your grade, please contact me.

### **WARNING**

Work that you submit should be your own. Homework, quizzes and exams are not a group effort. Copying from another student will result in an "F" for both of you. Copying directly from a book or website will result in an "F". I want the answers in your own words.

### **FINAL THOUGHTS**

This is a challenging class. You need to try to have all of your work done well and in on time. Print out the schedule and plan ahead. If you fall behind, catching up is very hard to do. Do not expect that you can do everything the night before.

It is good to be a bit of a "geek". Go beyond the basic exercises and learn more about the UNIX/Linux environment. That attitude will help you be successful in this field.

I will try to get your work graded within a week. Together we can be successful and move you forward in your career. Never hesitate to contact me with concerns or questions. I teach because I like to and I regard my student's success as a plus for me as well.

Anytime you are wonder about your current grade status, please feel free to contact me by WCC email.

Good luck!

Phil