1 Introduction

This class is CSE 221: Operating Systems (OS). The class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:34am to 10:55am at U413 2.

2 Instructors and Office Hours

The instructor for this class is Dr. Bennet Yee. I just go by "Bennet" or "bsy". My official office hours are 4pm to 5pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays in my office, AP&M 5141, but you should feel free to drop by at other times. If you come by outside of office hours without first making an appointment, I may ask you to come back later if I am busy, but I will otherwise make an effort to accomodate you. You can run the command "`finger bsy@play`" to check my idle time and see if I'm around first. You may also email questions to me at `bsy@cs.ucsd.edu`. My official office hours will be available on the class web page once my schedule is determined.

3 Class Contents / Goals

In this class, you will learn OS design, some history of OSes, technology trends, as well as critical thinking/analysis of OS design choices in order to prepare you to do OS research / allow you to converse intelligently at Computer Science cocktail parties. To these ends, the course is organized around reading research papers, ranging from "classics" to more recent works. We will go over 2 papers per class meeting — this is a **lot** of reading — where the I will pose questions for individual students in the class to answer / lead mini-discussion. Sometimes you will be asked to lead the discussion.

I assume that you have the requisite undergraduate operating systems background. If not, I encourage you to pick up an undergraduate OS textbook. Being more intelligent than the average undergraduate, you should be able to read the text in a few weeks and gain at least a reasonable (though perhaps not in-depth) understanding of the undergraduate material — enough to keep up with the course.

In addition to the assigned readings, you will write a survey paper on some OS-related topic. To do this, you will form into groups of 4 students, determine an additional list of self-selected readings of at least 10 recent research papers from an OS sub-area, read these carefully and critically, and write a paper on what is the state-of-the-art research in this sub-area. The emphasis is on critical thinking, analysis, and novel observations — we will run a mock conference where these papers are evaluated by the program committee (you), and then the top papers will be presented.

4 Textbook, Handouts, and Class Web Pages

There is no text for the course. The list of papers will be available via the class web page — look there for some advanced warning of what's coming next.

You should read the class Web page at

`http://www-cse.ucsd.edu/classes/fa98/cse221/`

periodically for extra "virtual" handouts, announcements, etc.

5 Grading

This course will **not** be graded on a curve. If all of you learn the material well, I will give everybody "A"s (or S or P); conversely, if none of you learn the material at all, I will give everybody "F"s (or U or NP). Your grade will be computed from your marks for in class discussion and for your survey paper as follows:

Discussion	40%
Survey paper	60%

You are encouraged to jump in and ask questions during in-class discussion. There are no laboratory assignments.