

Front Door

Introduction

Welcome to the Spring 2013 session of Grinnell College's CSC 295.03, a special topics course entitled *Roots of Professional Practice - A Philosophy of Unix*. In this course, we will explore the approaches that professionals take when developing software in the Unix environment. But we will also delve more deeply into the underlying *Unix philosophy* that guides this practice.

There will be very little lecture in the class. The focus will be on collaborative exploration of problems and their solutions. Each class, I expect to suggest a problem and an approach and to have the class discuss and experiment with alternatives.

The Web site for the course is

<http://www.cs.grinnell.edu/~rebelsky/Courses/CSC295/2013S.03/>. You can find all sorts of interesting things on the course web, and I'd encourage you to look there.

This is an experimental course. Among other things, this means that I expect to be updating the syllabus as the semester goes on.

Basics

Meets: Tuesdays, 1:15-2:05 p.m., Science 3819.

Instructor: Samuel A. Rebelsky, Science 3824. 269-4410 (office). 236-7445 (home).

Office hours: Wed 10:00-11:50, Thu 2:15-3:05, Fri 10:00-10:50.

I tend to follow an open door policy: Feel free to stop by when my door is open or to make an appointment for another time. I have children, so please do not call my house before 7 a.m. or after 10 p.m.

Grading

This course is offered for one credit and is graded as S/D/F. All students who take the course are expected to

- attend at least eleven of the thirteen class meetings;
- do all assigned readings;
- participate actively in class; and
- do the take-home problems.

Textbooks and Other Readings

You are not required to get these books. They are simply recommendations. More recommendations will follow

Mike Gancarz. 1994. *The Unix Philosophy*. Digital Press.

Eric S. Raymond. 2003. *The Art of Unix Programming*. Addison-Wesley.

Samuel A. Rebelsky. 2013. *The Glimmer Guide to C and *nix*. An e-book in progress, available at <http://www.cs.grinnell.edu/~rebelsky/Cnix>.

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