CMPT 295 - D100 Introduction to Computer Systems

Instructor(s): Anne Lavergne  
SFU Burnaby

Calendar Objective/Description:  
The curriculum introduces students to topics in computer architecture that are considered fundamental to an understanding of the digital systems underpinnings of computer systems.

Instructor's Objectives:  
This course is primarily a course on computer systems and low-level programming. We will discuss the relationship between the computer architecture (the hardware) and the applications that run on it (the software), and the issues that influence the design of both. Programs will be written in both C and x86-64 assembly. We will explore how instructions are encoded and executed and how binary data types are encoded and interpreted by computer hardware, and how these issues relate to the performance and reliability of your applications.

Prerequisites:  
Either (MACM 101 and ((CMPT 125 and CMPT 127) or CMPT 135)) or (MATH 151 and CMPT 102 for students in an Applied Physics program). Students with credits for CMPT 150 or 250 may not take this course for further credit.

Topics:  
- Representation of numeric data  
- Machine language programs  
- Representation of instructions (instruction set architecture)  
- Basic digital systems  
- CPU organization  
- Memory organization  
- Program/Code optimization

Grading:  
Will be confirmed during first week of lectures. Course activities will include (but may not be limited to) assignments, midterm(s) and final examination.  
Students must attain an overall passing grade on the weighted average of exams in the course in order to obtain a clear pass (C- or better).

Required Books:  

Academic Honesty Statement::
Academic honesty plays a key role in our efforts to maintain a high standard of academic excellence and integrity. Students are advised that ALL acts of intellectual dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the SFU Academic Honesty and Student Conduct Policies (http://www.sfu.ca/policies/gazette/student.html).