SAE 549: Systems Architecting

SYLLABUS

Summer 2019

Class Session: Tuesdays, 6:00 pm – 9:10 pm, Location Olin Hall of Engineering (OHE) 120

Class Section: 32322D (DEN/Off-campus) and 32349R (On Campus)

Contact Information:

Instructor: Kenneth Cureton  
Office hours: Tuesdays, 4:00 – 5:30 PM  
Office location: RAN 215 & Virtual  
Office phone: 213-740-1713  
E-mail: cureton@usc.edu

Teaching Assistant: Mr. Edwin Ordoukhanian  
Office hours: Tuesdays, 4:00 – 5:30 PM  
Office location: RAN 215 & Virtual  
Office phone: 213-740-1713  
E-mail: ordoukha@usc.edu

Course Learning Objectives:

■ To improve students’ ability to think critically, ask the right questions, and apply the right methods when architecting various types of systems.

■ To improve students’ understanding of the role of system architects and their relationship to systems engineers and transdisciplinary systems engineering.

■ To introduce the students to new, advanced multidisciplinary topics (e.g., systems thinking, systems modeling, psychological principles in systems architecting, biologically-inspired architectures, agent-based modeling, human capabilities and limitations) relevant to complex systems architecting.

■ To introduce the students to key concepts in performing trade-off analysis which is important to both systems architecting and engineering.

Readings and Notes:

■ Weekly lecture notes will be posted on the Desire to Learn (http://courses.uscden.net)

■ Required Reader:


■ Required Texts: Note: you can download these books through USC Libraries for free.


Required Readings: *Note: you can download these papers via the DEN/D2L or Google Scholar or USC Libraries for free.*

Grade
Your grade will be based on:
- Homework assignments (total of 4 assignments) = 20%
- Midterm exam = 30%
- Final term paper = 50%

Homework
- Each homework assignment will consist of a few questions that ask students to briefly apply that week’s learning to analysis of a hypothetical new system. The homework will be assigned at the end of Lectures #2, #3, #5, and #6 and will be due before start of class the following week. Late submissions will receive a maximum of half-credit after the due date/time. Answers to all homework assignments will be reviewed in Lecture #11.
- Collaboration on the homework assignments is forbidden. Violators will receive an automatic score of zero for that assignment.

Exam
- The exam will consist of multiple questions that will test students’ knowledge about the fundamentals of systems architecting, complex systems, and systems thinking. The exam will be on all the subjects covered in previous lectures and assigned readings. This will be timed exam (2 hours and 40 minutes). The exam will be available on D2L at any time between Wednesday July 3, 2019 at 6:00 AM Pacific Time and Monday July 8, 2019 at 6:00 PM Pacific Time. Answers to the exam will be reviewed in Lecture #11.
- Collaboration on the exam is forbidden. Violators will receive an automatic F for the course.

Term Paper:
The term paper should address the following problem:
Describe and analyze the architecture of a selected system (see below). Your analysis should discuss how the architecting process led to the architecture. The architecting process should address the heuristics used, key tradeoffs, questions posed, people involved, options generated, and decisions made.
Submit a maximum 1 page abstract for approval by
June 18, 2019 6:00 PM Pacific Time on your chosen system.

Student must write on a specific system from one of the following categories.
- Automated (Self-Driving) Cars
- Smart Phones or Smart Tablet Computers
- Space Telescopes
- Robotic Systems (including Unmanned Space Exploration)
- Manned Space Transport
- Passenger Aircraft
- Airborne Platforms (Fighter / Bomber Aircraft / Helicopter / Unmanned Aerial Vehicles)

Students should not propose an individual component or subsystem or process, but an entire vehicle (or phone/tablet) from one of the above categories in the above list.
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LENGTH: The term paper should be approximately 8 pages (excluding references, appendices, and cover page), single-spaced, single column, standard (1” top and bottom, 1.25” left and right) margins, 12-point Times New Roman type.

DELIVERY: The term paper must be submitted through the Desire to Learn (D2L) system. Links for submitting final paper will be available on D2L (http://courses.uscden.net).

DEADLINE: Term papers are due on August 6, 2019 at 11:59 PM Pacific Time. No late papers will be accepted after the due date and time, and the student will receive an automatic F grade for the final paper.

Collaboration or plagiarism in the term paper is forbidden. Violators will receive an automatic F grade for the final paper.

UNIVERSITY LEVEL ISSUES

■ Statement for Students with Disabilities:
Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in GFS 120 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

■ Statement on Academic Integrity:
USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one’s own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another’s work as one’s own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. Scampus, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 13.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: https://scampus.usc.edu/university-student-conduct-code/. Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/.
## Schedule of Class Sessions:

Any changes will be announced.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture Topics</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 21</td>
<td>1. Intro to SAE Program, the course, the instructor, and systems architecting</td>
<td>1. “Preface” from Rechtin, 1991&lt;br&gt;2. Chapter 1, 2, and 3 from Rechtin, 1991&lt;br&gt;3. Chapter 1 from Madni 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Identify selected SYSTEM for Research Paper along with student bio</td>
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<td>Homework #1 Assigned</td>
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<td>Homework #2 Due by 6:00 PM Tuesday June 11, 2019 Pacific Time</td>
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<td>Homework #3 Assigned</td>
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<td>Homework #4 Due by 6:00 PM Tuesday July 2, 2019 Pacific Time&lt;br&gt;Note: Midterm Exam this weekend!</td>
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<td>Homework #4 Due by 6:00 PM Tuesday July 2, 2019 Pacific Time&lt;br&gt;Note: Midterm Exam this weekend!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 3-8</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>2 hour 40 minute timed exam at any time of your choice between July 3 at 6 AM and July 8 Midnight (Pacific Times)</td>
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<td>Jul 16</td>
<td>9. Systems Architecting of Complex Systems</td>
<td>1. Section 2.2.7 from Madni 2018</td>
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## Lecture Topics

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jul 23</td>
<td>10. Special Topics - Guest Lecture</td>
<td>(none)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 30</td>
<td>11. Special Topics - Guest Lecture</td>
<td>(none)</td>
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</table>
3. Chapter 16 from Rechtin 1991  
4. Chapter 11 from Madni 2018  
*Final Term Paper Due by 11:59 PM August 6, 2019 Pacific Time* |