Cosumnes River College

CISN 303 / ITIS 155

Network Administration - Linux Server

An Online Course

Spring 2026 16w: January 17 – May 21

Instructor: Buddy Spisak **Online/In Person Office Hours**: Mondays/Wednesdays 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.
Tuesdays/Thursdays 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
Office: SOC 115 Using this link: https://lrccd.zoom.us/j/82562480564
Phone: (916) 691-7062
Email: spisakj@crc.losrios.edu The turnaround time for responding to most emails is about one to two days. Be sure to include your name and the course number in each email so I can identify who you are and what the email is about.
Course Web page: https://lrccd.instructure.com
Instructor Web page: http://crc.losrios.edu/spisakj/

Prerequisites: None
Advisory: CISC 310
Lecture/Lab: Fully online (14351) Asynchronous – optional live office hours via Zoom on Wednesdays from 7 to 9 pm.

Accepted for Credit: CSU
Class Credits: 3 units

Textbook: No textbook is required for this course. All the reading materials are available via the Red Hat Academy at https://rha.ole.redhat.com/rha/app

Labs: Some labs are done through NDG Netlab+ via Canvas.

Supplies: Earbuds or a headset for listening to videos and a camera for Zoom conferencing would be beneficial.

A flash drive (at least 16GB, but 32GB is preferred) is recommended to store your work for the class**.**

Course Description:

This course will provide a student with the knowledge and skills required to build, maintain, troubleshoot, and support server hardware and software technologies. The student will be able to identify environmental issues, understand and comply with disaster recovery and physical/software security procedures, become familiar with industry terminology and concepts, and understand server roles/specializations and interactions within the overall computing environment. C-ID ITIS 155

Student Learning Outcomes and Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

EXPLAIN THE BASIC FEATURES OF THE LINUX OPERATING SYSTEM IN COMPARISON TO OTHER OPERATING SYSTEMS (SLO #01).

- Describe how Linux was created and how it compares to other operating systems
- Outline the skills required and challenges facing a system administrator
- Distinguish between the graphical system used by Linux and command line
- Support the basic features of the GNOME and KDE desktop interfaces

UTILIZE THE SHELL AND EVALUATE ITS FUNCTIONALITY (SLO #02).

- Manipulate variables in the shell to control the working environment
- Formulate data at the command-line and for print files
- Manipulate text using the vi editor
- Create and manage user and group accounts
- Construct access permissions on files and directories

COMPARE AND CONTRAST DIFFERENT LINUX NETWORK TOOLS (SLO #03).

- Demonstrate how to log in to a Linux system over a network connection. Describe how it is different from a Windows network connection.
- Select the appropriate command-line tools for common network services such as FTP and the Web
- Illustrate the difference between network interfaces using command-line and graphical utilities
- Apply the skill necessary to set up a simple DHCP server, and manage networked printing services

ANALYZE AND ARTICULATE THE BASIC STEPS OF A LINUX SOFTWARE INSTALLATION (SLO #04).

- Analyze the hardware components of your computer system
- Design a hard disk space to hold a new Linux installation
- Describe the steps that hardware starts a standard PC operating system
- Explain the difference between the LILO and GRUB boot loader
- Create the init program and the scripts used to start system services
- Manage system services after start-up

MANAGE AND DESIGN LINUX SECURITY (SLO #05).

- Manage users and groups
- Design secure networks and firewalls

Methods of Measuring Student Learning Outcomes:

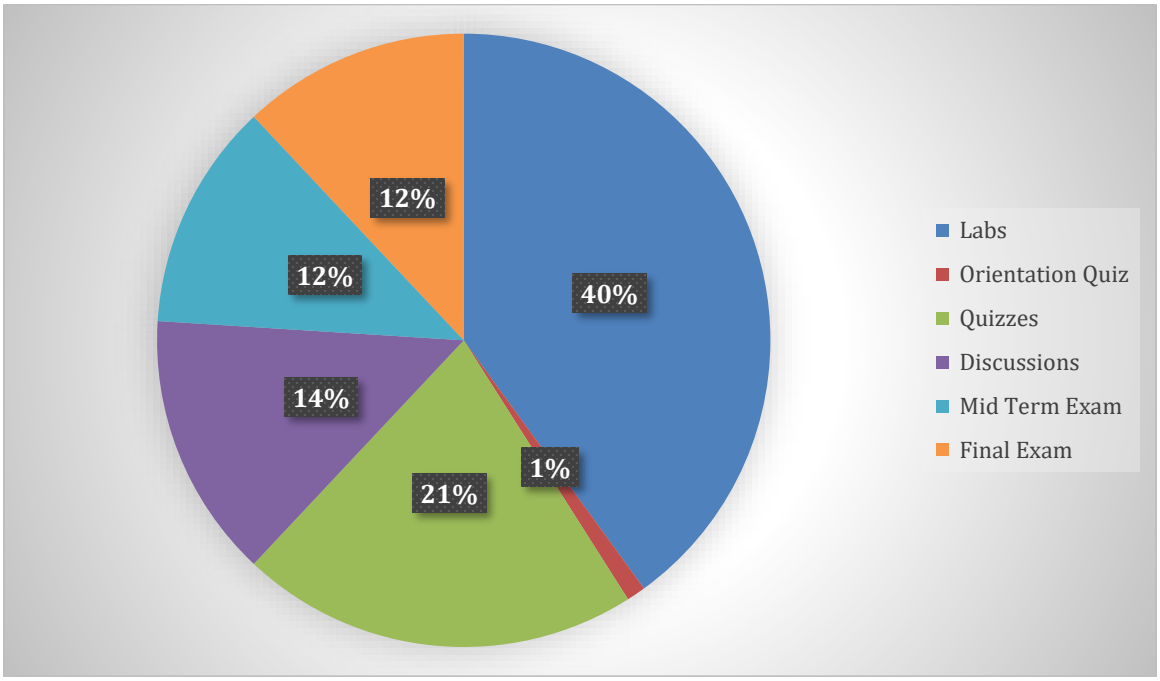
- You will demonstrate knowledge of course concepts through class discussions and achievement on quizzes, mid-term exam, and a final examination.
- You will demonstrate competence in the coursework by completing lab work and participating in discussions during the semester.

Student Obligations:

- **Attendance**: Since this course is online, it is important to participate frequently in the class.
- **Late Work**: Unless noted, all assignments are due on Sunday by midnight each week. Late work will be accepted ONLY if you have contacted me prior to the due date either by email or voicemail. In general, late work is due the next week, and no late assignments may be turned in after one week from the original due date regardless of the reason. For every day an assignment is late, you will lose 10% of its grade.
- **Due Dates**: Unless noted, all assignments will be submitted in Canvas. If, for any reason, you cannot access Canvas or are unable to submit the assignment on time, please email it to me instead so that you are not penalized for being late. Quizzes and discussion items cannot be taken past their due dates. If you miss a quiz and you want to make up points, you can take advantage of the extra credit assignments posted in Canvas. Everyone is welcome to work on the extra credit assignments. Typically, they are five to ten points each, depending on the difficulty of the assignment.
- **Labs**: There will be seven labs credited for homework for the class. The due dates are in the **SCHEDULE** portion of this handout. We will spend a lot of time working on lab activities. Each lab has a set of review questions you must answer in Canvas to receive points for that assignment.
- **Discussions**: I want everyone to take a proactive approach to learning this material. This includes using the discussion feature in Canvas to ask questions and answer other students' questions. I will also post questions each week that you can answer to further your understanding of the material. I expect two postings each week unless otherwise noted.
- **Language Matters:** Part of communicating effectively involves communicating correctly with one another. This is not an English class; however, I will be looking at and commenting on the basic accuracy of your written English, such as sentence boundaries, spelling, and other basic grammar issues. While you will not fail the class because of your English, you may lose some points for frequent and repeated errors. Remember that your use of English can influence your readers positively—or negatively.
- **Mid-term and Final Exams**: These exams will be administered through Canvas.
- **Plagiarism Policy**: It is inappropriate, and a violation of academic policy, to copy information from any source (including, but not limited to, textbooks, magazine articles, newspaper articles, and internet articles) without giving proper credit to the author by using standard quotation procedures such as in-line quotes, footnotes, endnotes, etc. Quotes may not exceed 25% of the assignment's total length. You will receive no credit (0 points) for any assignment that copies any material from any other source without giving proper credit to the author(s). Repeat offenders of this policy are subject to academic discipline as outlined in the policies published by the college.
- **Cheating:** Students who cheat will receive a failing grade for the course. (See the Student Behavior and Academic Integrity page of the college website (https://crc.losrios.edu/about-us/our-values/student-rights-and-responsibilities/student-standards-of-conduct.)
- **CRC Honor Code:** Academic integrity requires honesty, fairness, respect, and responsibility. [See the Cosumnes River College Honor Code posted on the college website (https://crc.losrios.edu/student-honor-code/student-honor-code/student-honor-code/student-honor-code)].
- **Email**: Every student will be required to have an email account. If you do not have an email account, the college provides free email accounts for all current students.
- **Email etiquette**: I will not tolerate rude and demeaning comments or emails to anyone in this class. Please keep your comments and emails topic-related. If I determine that a comment or email to anyone else in the class is rude or demeaning, I will warn you once. If your behavior continues to be unacceptable, I will refer you to the administration of the college for disciplinary action.
- **Personal belongings**: All cell phones, beepers, pagers, etc. should be turned off or set to vibrate during any of the online lectures/labs.

- **Disabilities:** If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me or contact the Office of Disabled Student Programs and Services at 916-691-7275 as soon as possible.
- **Canvas:** This class utilizes a product called "Canvas." It is highly recommended that you check the website frequently for scheduling updates and homework assignments. Most of the homework assignments and quizzes will be done on Canvas.
- **Online Course Responsibilities:** This course requires significant self-motivation. You must not get behind. Labs and weekly assignments can take up to 11 hours to finish. Please don't try to finish them in one day. Not all activities are created equal. Some may take a bit longer than others. You would normally spend 5.5 hours per week in class for this course: a total of 162 hours.Allow yourself at least 9 hours per week to complete the activities online, including the time spent writing the class discussion postings. You should plan additional time to read the textbook and study for the quizzes. Some people believe that an online format provides a much easier way to study this subject than an on-campus framework because they love to read and avoid parking problems. Others feel very intimidated at first. Be patient as you work your way throughthe activities.
- **AI Policy:** We now live in a world where it has become very easy and, therefore, very tempting to use ChatGPT or other AI tools for course assignments. In this course, the use of AI is considered akin to receiving assistance from another person and raises the same concern that work is not your own. Therefore, the use of AI software for your own study purposes is allowed but using generative AI tools to substantially complete an assignment, particularly written assignments that require your own interpretation and analysis, is not permitted. Your voice, your words, are more important and interesting than anything AI can create. Should your work be flagged by AI detection software, I intend to give you the benefit of the doubt, have a conversation with you first, and offer the opportunity to revise any work that is AI-generated. In return, I expect you to be honest and upfront about your AI usage and ask for extensions or support if you need it.
- **Online Access via Zoom:** This class utilizes a product called "Zoom." It is highly recommended that you are in a quiet room without distractions, have stable internet access, and use a video camera with a quality microphone so that you are seen and heard by everyone.

Grading:



Course Topic		Points	Total	Approximate % the of Grade
Labs (7)		50	350	40
Orientation Quiz (1)		10	10	1
Quizzes (6)		30	180	21
Discussions (6)		20	120	14
Mid Term Exam (1)		100	100	12
Final Exam (1)		100	100	12

Point System: There are 860 total assigned points.

Grade Ranges: A=774-860, B=688-773, C=602-687, D=516-601, F=0-515

Schedule: It is tentative and can change during the term. All changes will be located under the "Announcements" section in Canvas for the course.

	Day:		Lecture/Lab Schedule:	Assignment Due:	Due Date (By Midnight):
Week 1	Wed.	1/21	Orientation and Introductions	View the Online Orientation	Sun., Jan. 25
			RH124 Ch 1: Introduction to Red Hat Enterprise Linux RH124 Ch 2: Accessing the Command Line RH124 Ch 3: Getting Help from Local Documentation	Orientation Disc.	
Week 2	Wed.	1/28	RH124 Ch 4: Registering Systems for Red Hat Support RH124 Ch 5: Getting AI-assisted Help with Red Hat Enterprise Linux Lightspeed	Orientation Quiz	Sun., Feb. 1
			RH124 Ch 6: Navigating the File-system Hierarchy RH124 Ch 7: Managing Files from the Command Line	Discussion 1 – Becoming a Linux Admin (RH124 Ch 1–2)	
			Lab #1 (Activities: Ch 2, 3, 6, 7)		
Week 3	Wed.	2/4	RH124 Ch 8: Editing Text Files RH124 Ch 9: Redirecting Shell Input and Output	Quiz #1 (RH124 Ch 1–3)	Sun., Feb. 8
Week 4	Wed.	2/11	RH124 Ch 10: Managing Local Users and Groups RH124 Ch 11: Controlling Access to Files	Lab Review #1	Sun., Feb. 15
			Lab #2 (Activities: Ch 8, 9, 10, 11)	Quiz #2 (RH124 Ch 6–9)	
Week 5	Wed.	2/18	RH124 Ch 12: Installing and Updating Software with RPM RH124 Ch 13: Installing and Updating Applications by Using Flatpak	Discussion 2 – Files, Permissions & Security (RH124 Ch 6–11)	Sun., Feb. 22
Week 6	Wed.	2/25	RH124 Ch 14: Accessing Removable Media	Lab Review #2	Sun., Mar. 1
			Lab #3 (Activities: Ch 10, 11, 12, 14)		
			Finishing-up the first half of the course		
Week 7	Wed.	3/4	RH124 Ch 15: Monitoring and Managing Linux Processes RH124 Ch 16: Controlling Services and Daemons RH124 Ch 17: Introduction to Networking	Quiz #3 (RH124 Ch 10–12)	Sun., Mar. 8
			Mid Term Exam (RH124: Chapters 1-15)		
Week 8	Wed.	3/11	RH124 Ch 18: Managing Network Configuration RH124 Ch 19: Configuring and Securing SSH	Lab Review #3	Sun., Mar. 15
			Lab #4 (Activities: Ch 15, 16, 18, 19)	Discussion 3 – Services & Troubleshooting (RH124 Ch 15–16)	
				Midterm Exam	
	Wed	3/18	Spring Break – No classes or office hours held from March 16 through 22		Sun., Mar. 22
Week 9	Wed.	3/25	RH134 Ch 1: Shell Scripting and the Command Line RH134 Ch 2: Using Regular Expressions for Practical Applications	Lab Review #4	Sun., Mar. 29
Week 10	Wed.	4/1	RH134 Ch 3: Scheduling User Tasks RH134 Ch 4: Scheduling System Tasks		Sun., Apr. 5
			Lab #5 (Activities: RH134 Ch 1, 2, 3, 4)		

Week 11	Wed.	4/8	RH134 Ch 5: Analyzing and Storing Logs RH134 Ch 6 Managing Security with SELinux	Discussion 4 – Automation vs Manual Administration (RH134 Ch 1–4)	Sun., Apr. 12
				Quiz #4 (RH134 Ch 1–3)	
Week 12	Wed.	4/15	RH134 Ch 7: Archiving Files RH134 Ch 8: Transferring Files RH134 Ch 9: Tuning System Performance	Lab Review #5	Sun., Apr. 19
			Lab #6 (Activities: Ch 5, 6, 7, 8)	Quiz #5 (RH134 Ch 5–6)	
Week 13	Wed.	4/22	RH134 Ch 10: Managing Basic Storage RH134 Ch 11: Managing Storage with Logical Volume Manager		Sun., Apr. 26
Week 14	Wed.	4/29	RH134 Ch 12: Controlling and Troubleshooting the Boot Process RH134 Ch 13: Recovering Superuser Access RH134 Ch 14: Managing Network Security	Lab Review #6	Sun., May 3
			Lab #7 (Activities: Ch 10, 11, 12, 13)		
			Finishing-up the second half of the course		
Week 15	Wed.	5/6	RH134 Ch 15: Accessing Network-attached Storage RH134 Ch 16: Installing Red Hat Enterprise Linux	Lab Review #7	Sun., May 10
			RH134 Ch 17: Managing Containers with Podman RH134 Ch 18: Working with Image-based Red Hat	Discussion 5 – SELinux & Defense in Depth (RH134 Ch 6 & 14)	
			Enterprise Linux Final Review	Quiz #6 (RH134 Ch 10–13)	
Week 16	Wed.	5/13	What's-next-after-this-class? meeting	Discussion 6 – The Modern Linux Administrator (RH134 Ch 17–18)	All other work must be turned in Thur., May 14
			Final Exam (RH134: Chapters 1-18)	Final Exam	Fri., May 15