

Note: Students often take CS253 and CS211 at the same time, which is fully supported. The schedule below emphasizes C once students taking CS211 have had some time to learn the basics of C++. To begin working in the right direction, we'll add in a little bit of C each week starting at the beginning, so that everyone is ready when the class re-focuses on C about halfway through the class.

CS253 Systems Programming Fall 2026 Calendar		
Week	Course Content	Relevant Chapters
Aug 23	Introduction to Linux, file tree, terminals, SSH	1-3
Aug 30	Input redirection, pipes, more command line usage	4-6
Sep 6	Labor day (no class Monday), Permissions, more advanced shell usage	7-9
Sep 13	Variables Processes and process management, OS structure	10 and 11
Sep 20	Package Management, Installing Programs, Software Development	14 and 22
Sep 27	Midterm Exam 1 and Answers, finding things	16
Oct 4	Archiving, backups	17, 18
Oct 11	Regular Expressions and Text Processing	19, 20
Oct 18	Strings in C, debuggers	TBD
Oct 25	C Memory Management	TBD
Nov 1	Fork/exec process management	TBD
Nov 8	Midterm Exam 2 and Answers, C programming reminders	
Nov 15	Pipes and File Descriptors, Signals	TBD
Nov 22	Thanksgiving Break! No class all week	
Nov 29	Remaining C programming topics	TBD
Dec 6	Topics of Interest or Review	
Dec 13	Final Exam Wednesday, December 16, at 9:00 AM in MLH 310	