

Lecture 1.2

Course Organization

EN 600.320/420

Instructor: Randal Burns

29 January 2018



Department of Computer Science, *Johns Hopkins University*

About the Class: Goals

- The few, the proud, the parallel programmers
- This is a systems class, not a PL class
- Focus on understanding concurrency
 - Algorithmic thinking not algorithms
- Play with toys
 - Languages (MPI, threads, Hadoop!, Spark, CUDA, OpenMP)
 - Amazon Web Services



Format

- The 8 minute lecture
 - <http://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/instructional-design/the-eight-minute-lecture-keeps-students-engaged/>
 - Educators like to blame it on the YouTube generation, but it's always been true
- 3 or 4, 8 minute lectures on 15 minute intervals
 - Break time between
 - Chat with peers, read related material, talk to TAs/instructor, pee



Attendance

- Come if you want, when you want. Bring energy. Lectures are for you.
 - I would prefer that you leave, rather than sleep.
 - It hurts my feelings when nobody shows up.
- Lecture is where the good stuff happens.
 - I'll try hard.
 - This is the best chance to wrestle with understanding the material



Registration

- We are full
 - And we're stuck in this room
- As spots become available
 - Preference to CS graduate students
- I will be signing no slips today



Assignments and Grades

- Two exams: midterm and final
- Four or five programming assignments: Threads, OpenMP, MPI, Hadoop or Spark, GPU
 - Each about two weeks long
- Project for 420: of your choice
- I don't grade according to a formula/curve
 - I build many metrics (tests only, projects only, weighted averages) and then use all plus side information to assign grades
- Refer to the course Web page

