

# Course Syllabus

## ECE 4/6740: Fault Tolerance and Reliability in High-Performance Computing

Term: Fall 2023

August

- Aug 23, Wed Classes begin
- Aug 29, Tue Last day to register or add a class or declare Audit

September

- Sep 6, Wed Last day to drop a class or withdraw from the University without a W grade

November

- Nov 1, Wed Last day to drop a class or withdraw from the University without final grades

**Class Meeting Time and Place:**

Daniel 212 TR 9:30AM – 10:45 PM

**Time to Wait:**

Class is cancelled if the instructor is more than 15 minutes late to class and there is no email message or Canvas post explaining otherwise.

**Information on Modality:**

In-person

**Instructor Name:**

[Jon C. Calhoun](#)

**Instructor Email:**

[jonccal@clemson.edu](mailto:jonccal@clemson.edu)

To receive a response, emails must be sent from your Clemson University email address to the professor's @clemson.edu email and must include the course number in the subject line. The professor will respond within 24-hours during weekdays unless on travel.

**University Office Phone:**

864-656-2646

**Office Address/Office Number:**

Riggs 209

## Office Hours:

Thursday – 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

## Course Description

Survey of current fault tolerance and reliability issues on high-performance computing (HPC) systems. Topics include taxonomy of failures and errors, checkpoint-restart, fault injection techniques, soft error detection schemes, and lossy compression.

## Prerequisites

ECE 3220 or ECE 3290. ECE 4730 is recommended, but not required.

## Learning Objectives / Outcomes

- Students will be able to classify failures and errors in HPC systems
- Students will analytically and empirically analyze error detection schemes
- Students will analytically and empirically explore recovery schemes
- Students will apply techniques covered to improve the reliability of an HPC

## Required Materials

Textbook: None. Internet connected laptop with a webcam, microphone, and speakers/headphones.

## How to Be Successful in this Course

- Be prepared for all classes
- Read required material before class
- Actively contribute to the learning activities in class
- Abide by the University Academic Integrity Policy
- Start homework and projects early

## Topical Outline

Faults, Errors, and Failures in HPC	2 weeks
Checkpoint Restart	4 weeks
Fault Injection Techniques	1 week
Soft Error Detection and Recovery	4 weeks
Lossy Compression and Approximate Computing	4 weeks

## Major Assessment/Grading Activities

Paper and Presentation Reviews:	10%
Homework:	25%

Paper Presentations:		25%
Discussion Participation:		10%
Final Exam:	UG:	10%
	G:	5%
Project(Team based):	UG: no more than 4 students	20%
	G: no more than 2 students	25%

*Graduate student projects are expected to be more rigorous and are graded accordingly.*

*See the lecture slides and Canvas assignments for more details about each category.*

## Grading System

Letter	Points/Percentages
A	[90%, 100%]
B	[80%, 90%)
C	[70%, 80%)
D	[60%, 70%)
F	[0%, 60%)

## Grading Policies

### Late Work

Late assignments will have 1 letter grade deducted for each day that they are late. Examples of excused absences include a death in the immediate family or personal conditions requiring hospitalization or emergency treatment. Personal illnesses such as colds, general fatigue, or general sickness are not typically excused. If you are unsure if your situation will be excused, contact the professor in a professional manner prior to or as soon as possible after the missed assignment.

## Absences

Attendance is mandatory; however, if you do need to miss class:

### Notification of Absence

The **Notification of Absence module in Canvas** allows students to quickly notify instructors (via an email) of an absence from class and provides for the following categories: court attendance, death of immediate family member, illness, illness of family member, injury, military duty, religious observance, scheduled surgery, university function, unscheduled hospitalization, other anticipated absence, or other unanticipated absence.

The notification form requires a brief explanation, dates and times. Based on the dates and times indicated, instructors are automatically selected, but students may decide which instructors will receive the notification. This does not serve as an “excuse” from class. It is a

request for an excused absence and students are encouraged to discuss the absence with instructors, as the instructor is the only person who can excuse an absence. If students are unable to report the absence by computer, they may reach the Office of Advocacy and Success. Students with excessive absences who need academic or medical assistance can also contact the Office of Advocacy and Success.

## Inclement Weather or Emergency

Any missed assignment due to inclement weather or emergency is due the next day the university is operational, unless there is a Canvas announcement

# Standard Academic Policies

## Academic Integrity

As members of the Clemson University community, we have inherited Thomas Green Clemson's vision of this institution as a "high seminary of learning." Fundamental to this vision is a mutual commitment to truthfulness, honor, and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of others. Furthermore, we recognize that academic dishonesty detracts from the value of a Clemson degree. Therefore, we shall not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing in any form.

All infractions of academic dishonesty by undergraduates must be reported to Undergraduate Studies for resolution through that office. In cases of plagiarism instructors may use the Plagiarism Resolution Form.

### ***Additionally, for undergraduate classes:***

Plagiarism, which includes the intentional or unintentional copying of language, structure, or ideas of another and attributing the work to one's own efforts. Graded works generated by artificial intelligence or ghostwritten (either paid or free) are expressly forbidden.

See the [Undergraduate Academic Integrity Policy](#) website for additional information and [the current catalogue](#) for the policy.

For graduate students, see the current [Graduate School Handbook](#) for all policies and procedures.

## Accessibility

Clemson University values the diversity of our student body as a strength and a critical component of our dynamic community. Students with disabilities or temporary injuries/conditions may require accommodations due to barriers in the structure of facilities, course design, technology used for curricular purposes, or other campus resources. Students who experience a barrier to full access to this class should let the instructor know and are encouraged

to [request accommodations](#) through SAS (Student Accessibility Services) as soon as possible. To request accommodations through SAS, please see this link: (<https://www.clemson.edu/academics/studentaccess/register.html>). You can also reach out to SAS with questions by calling 864-656-6848, visiting SAS at the ASC Suite 239, or stopping by the office as a drop-in appointment.

## The Clemson University Title IX Statement Regarding Non-Discrimination

Clemson University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender, pregnancy, national origin, age, disability, veteran's status, genetic information or protected activity in employment, educational programs and activities, admissions and financial aid. This includes a prohibition against sexual harassment and sexual violence as mandated by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. This [Title IX policy](#) is located on the Access and Equity website. Ms. Alesia Smith is the Clemson University Title IX Coordinator, and the Assistant Vice President of Equity Compliance. Her office is located at 223 Brackett Hall, 864-656-3181 and her email address is [alesias@clemson.edu](mailto:alesias@clemson.edu). Remember, email is not a fully secured method of communication and should not be used to discuss Title IX issues.

*Clemson University aspires to create a diverse community that welcomes people of different races, cultures, ages, genders, sexual orientation, religions, socioeconomic levels, political perspectives, abilities, opinions, values and experiences.*

## Emergency Preparation

Emergency procedures have been posted in all buildings and on all elevators. Students should be reminded to review these procedures for their own safety. All students and employees should be familiar with guidelines from [Clemson University Public Safety](#).

Clemson University is committed to providing a safe campus environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors. As members of the community, we encourage you to take the following actions to be better prepared in case of an emergency:

1. Familiarize yourself with all possible exits, safer locations, and other key information on the emergency evacuation maps in this building, and those that you visit regularly.
2. Make a plan for how you would Run, Hide, and Fight in case of an [active threat](#) in this building, and those that you visit regularly. For example:
  - a. Run – what are all the possible exits in this building, and the routes to them?
  - b. Hide – what are the potential hiding locations in this room and building that are out of sight of doors and windows, how do you lock the door(s), how would you barricade the door(s) and windows, where do you turn off the lights?
  - c. Fight – What tools are available in this room and building, should you have to fight?

3. Ensure you are signed up for [emergency alerts](#). Alerts are only sent when there is a potential threat to safety, a major disruption to campus services, and once-monthly tests.
4. Download the [Rave Guardian app](#) to your phone.  
(<https://www.clemson.edu/cusafety/cupd/rave-guardian/>)
5. Learn what you can do to [prepare yourself](#) for the hazards that affect our locations.  
(<http://www.clemson.edu/cusafety/EmergencyManagement/>)

**The professor reserves the right to modify any aspect of the syllabus at any time during the semester.**