Course Information

Staff.

Lecturer:	Prof. Albert R. Meyer `6044-lecturer@theory.lcs.mit.edu`	NE43-315	x3-6024
Secretary:	David Jones `6044-secretary@theory.lcs.mit.edu`	NE43-316	x3-5936

Lectures and Tutorials. Class meets MWF from 1:00–2:00 PM in 2-143. There is no TA; there will be no recitation sections. The lecturer and course secretary will be available by email daily and personally by appointment.

Prerequisites. The official prerequisites for the course are any of 6.042 *Mathematics for Computer Science*, 18.063 *Introduction to Algebraic Systems*, or 18.310 *Principles of Applied Mathematics*; The practical prerequisite is knowledge of the basic vocabulary of mathematics and how to do elementary proofs. With such mathematical experience you should be able to handle this course; in this case *ask the instructor for permission* to take the course.

Students who have taken 6.045J/18.400J or 6.840J/18.404J have more than met the prerequisites. (About a half-dozen (out of 37) lectures will overlap in coverage between this 6.044J/18.423J course and 6.045J/18.400J or 6.840J/18.404J; students who have taken either of these other courses are still welcome to take this course.)

Textbook. The required text for the course is *Introduction to the Formal Semantics of Programming Languages* by Glynn Winskel, published by MIT Press in 1993. The book is available at the **MIT Press Bookstore** (not the Coop).

Grading. There will be homework problems, two one hour quizzes, and a final exam. The problems and exams *count about equally* toward the final grade. The grading is nonlinear: ace the homework *or* the exams and you get an A, but counting on exam grades to outweigh neglected homework is a high-risk strategy.

Problem Sets. There will be problem sets most weeks. Homework will usually be assigned on a Friday and due the following one.

Handouts and Notebook. You may find it useful to get a loose-leaf notebook for use with the course, since all handouts and homework will be on standard three-hole punched paper. If you fail to obtain a handout in lecture, you can get a copy from the file cabinet to the right of the door to room NE43-311. If you take the last copy of a handout, please inform the course secretary, and get instructions on making more copies.

Handouts will also be available on-line in the 6.044 directory. To access this directory from Athena, type

```
attach -m /theory/6.044 -e theory.lcs.mit.edu:/pub/ftp/pub/6.044
source /theory/6.044/.athena_startup
```

(We recommend adding these lines to your `.environment` file, causing them to be executed every time you log in.) You will get a warning that "theory.lcs.mit.edu isn't registered with kerberos," which is entirely accurate but irrelevant. This will make the 6.044 directory available to you as `/theory/6.044` and tell LaTeX where to find the additional files it needs. All handouts are written in LaTeX.

If all else fails, the handouts can be retrieved via anonymous ftp or by mail from Theory. To retrieve these files by ftp, run `ftp theory.lcs.mit.edu`, supplying "anonymous" as the name (account) and "guest" as the password. Files may then be fetched by first typing "`cd pub/6.044`" to change directories and then typing "`get` *filename*". If you get the files in this way, you will also need to get the files `6.044.sty`, `handout.sty` and `handouts-6044-fall-95.tex` from `pub/6.044/input` in order to run LaTeX on the handout files. To find out about retrieving files by mail, send mail to `archive-server@theory.lcs.mit.edu` containing the single word "help" in the body of the message.

Electronic mail. All students are encouraged to subscribe to the course mail list by sending email to `6044-secretary@theory.lcs.mit.edu`; other administrative requests should also be directed to this address.

To facilitate communication in the class, there is an email address: `6044-forum@theory.lcs.mit.edu`. The `6044-forum` mailing list is for general communication by students, the instructor, and the TA to the class; a message sent here will automatically be broadcast to those on the mailing list. Students are encouraged to use `6044-forum` to arrange study sessions, discuss ambiguities and problems with homework, and send comments to the whole class. The TA and instructor may also post bugs and corrections to homeworks and handouts to `6044-forum`.

The lecturer's regular email address is `meyer@lcs.mit.edu`; the course secretary's regular email address is `dmjones@lcs.mit.edu`.

Pictures. You can help us learn who you are by giving us your photograph with your name on it. This is especially helpful if you later need a recommendation.