

6.1800 System Critique Assignment, Spring 2026

Due: March 20 2026, 11:59pm

Length: 750-900 words

Submit: On Canvas

Introduction

The System Critique assignment requires you to use systems reasoning and technical knowledge to describe, assess, and evaluate the RON system. This is an individual assignment, which you should complete on your own, though you can consult with other students. Because this is a critique, written for a technical audience, you won't just take the paper's claims at face value. Instead, you'll look for limitations or tradeoffs, and provide your own assessment of RON as described below.

Before beginning to write, review [RON](#) and note key information. As you answer these questions, think about whether you **agree or disagree** with the paper's claims. For instance, if the paper asserts that RON meets a particular goal, does it support that claim? Do you agree?

- What is RON? What is its purpose?
- Which prior system(s) does it respond to? How does it solve the limitation(s) of that system or systems?
- Identify the main modules of RON.
- Note the major design goals of RON in terms of properties, behavior, and outcomes measured by metrics. Is one of these goals the most important?
- What are the limitations of RON, either as defined in the paper or in your own analysis?
- Defined use cases will help you understand how RON meets needs, and how important each success or failure is.

Assignment description

After gathering this information, use the following guidelines to organize your analysis into a 2-3 page critique of RON. Your audience is a peer with basic systems knowledge, who has not read the RON paper.

Before beginning to write, think about how you might organize your critique. You might assess each module in turn, or each design goal. You might order design goals by importance (e. g. most to least important) or by strength (strongest to weakest—or the reverse!). Use your introduction to forecast and your conclusion to recap. After you write your conclusion, re-visit or revise your introduction!

The critique should be approximately 750-900 words. **Please include your final word count on your critique** (e.g., along with your name).

To support your description and analysis, use **evidence from the RON paper**. Use full citation and/or section references like (3.1); you don't need to cite lectures.

Structure of the paper

- **Introduction** presents the system and prepares readers for the paper
 - Briefly summarize what the system does and how it works. Identify the priorities of the system, in terms of properties, behaviors, and outcomes. Briefly summarize your assessment of the system.
- **Body of the paper** presents your analysis of the system
 - Define the **major design goals**, and **how the system addresses or achieves** them.
 - **Assess** how well the system meets the relevant design goals in practice: does it achieve prioritized properties? Demonstrate key behaviors? Are relevant metrics achieved? What tradeoffs are made and do you think they support the goals of the system? Define specific at least two use cases that support your assessment.
 - Address any other important **limitations or successes** of the system.
- **Conclusion** summarizes the system and its key advantages and disadvantages
 - May **respond to** or **re-connect** to the introduction.