XTRACS, written by former NCSU student, Lance Lovette, is an online course-scheduling program for the NCSU TRACS registration system. This program enables a student to prepare an up-to-date course schedule, although it cannot officially enroll the student in classes. XTRACS gets the complete and official NCSU course listings from a file that is updated nightly by TRACS. Students can find, select, and arrange courses on a schedule graph, and then print the graph to use when phoning in a completed schedule to TRACS. (On Linux, but not Windows)

You can bring up the XTRACS program from the main Application Menu under Miscellaneous. Or, type at the prompt

xtracs &

You will be asked which semester’s courses you want to load. Select the session you want, and then click the OK button. A message will pop up telling to wait for the course listings to be loaded.

When the loading is done, a schedule window will open with all of the academic department abbreviations listed in a column on the left. Selecting any one of these will list that department’s courses by course number in the second column. Selecting any course number in the second column will list all sections of that course in the third column, showing full course title, section information, and instructors’ names. If a class is open, you can add it to your schedule by selecting it and clicking the Add button. Dropping the section is just as easy; select and click Drop.

A graph window also opens when you bring up XTRACS. (If the graph does not come up, you can bring it up yourself from the Graph menu.) Whenever you make a section selection, the course section will appear simultaneously on the schedule graph so you can see how it fits into your schedule. If you try to add a course that is scheduled for the same time as another class on your graph, the program will alert you to the conflict.

If you want to schedule activities other than classes, such as work, use Schedule -> Block Time. If you want XTRACS to build a schedule for you, use the Generate Schedules option under Schedule.

The following figure shows a sample course schedule as it appears in the schedule window and on the course graph. The help facility inside the program gives complete instructions for using the program. Click Help to bring up the Help Index and Tutorial. Select the Tutorial to go through the procedure of filling out a course schedule.
When the Add button is selected, the highlighted course is added to the schedule at the bottom of the XTRACS window and on the Course Graph.