Syllabus: CIS 3338

Networking and Telecommunications
Spring 2007
The University of Texas – Pan American

Instructor	Dr. Punit Ahluwalia
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Office	Check at MAGC 3.302 (Department secretary's office) for directions
Office hours	Wednedays: 1:45pm–4:45pm; 6:25pm–7:25pm
Term	Fall 2006
Credit hours	Three (3) semester hours
Class days	Mondays and Wednesdays
Class time	7:10pm-8:25pm
Class room	MAGC 2.302
Prerequisite	6 hours of CIS or CSCI above computer literacy or consent of the departmental chair.

1 Syllabus

This syllabus sets out the class policies to be followed in conduct of this class. All students are advised to read the syllabus carefully on the first day of the class. If anything mentioned in the syllabus is not clear, it must be be clarified forthwith. A hard copy of the syllabus will be provided to the students on the first day of the class. An electronic copy can also be downloaded from WebCT at any time. Although major changes to this syllabus are unlikely, some changes that are required to achieve the objectives of the class may be made during the semester. Whenever such changes occur, they will be communicated to the students. The students are advised to always refer to the latest version of the syllabus which can be downloaded from WebCT.

2 Student disabilities policy

If you have a documented disability which will make it difficult for you to carry out the work as I have outlined and/or if you need special accommodations/assistance due to disability, please contact the office of Services for Persons with Disabilities (OSPD), Emilia Ramirez, Schunior Hall, Room 1.101 (316-7005) immediately. Appropriate arrangements/accommodations can be arranged.

3 Text/Materials

1. Reference Text: Curt M. White, Data Communications & Computer Networks, 4th Edition, Course Technology

2. Handouts/Notes wll be provided by the instructor

4 Course description

This course explores data communications, voice communications, and both local and wide area computer networks, and their proper application to business and industry problems. Topics include vocabulary, hardware, concepts, issues, trends, and business and technical decision making for the telecommunications field. In the laboratory, students will gain hands-on experience with local area network hardware and software, modems, hubs, switches, other hardware and communication software. Further, the course will focus on practical applications in the area of

networking with focus on how to design and build networks, network security, signaling and other current topics in data communications.

5 Course objectives

The goal of this course is to equip students with a broad foundation in data and voice communications concepts and technology from a practical, business-oriented perspective.

6 Performance measures and deliverables

The performance will be measured based on three in-term exams, assignments, class participation, in-class labs and a comprehensive final exam.

6.1 Assignments

All assignments that need to be turned-in must be submitted on WebCT. Email or hard copy submissions are not acceptable and will not be reviewed. The assignments must be submitted as electronic files and not as "pasted text". The students are advised to name the files being turned-in with not very general/common names. One good method to name files is by inserting one's WebCT ID in the file name.

All assignments must be submitted by the given deadline for full credit. Late submissions may also be made, upto a maximum of 24 hours after the stated deadline. Assignments submitted late will incur 20% penalty. Submissions made after the 24-hour late submission period will not be graded and will receive zero (0) points.

The assignments questions/instructions will be provided no later than two weeks before the respective deadlines. Every assignment will have theoretical and lab components. The submission schedules have been made available in this syllabus at the very outset of the semester. The students are advised to plan for any conflicts and ensure that they would have sufficient time to complete the assignments.

6.2 Exams

Three in-term exams and a final exam will be administered. The final exam will be comprehensive and will include full material covered during the semester. Additional instructions, including the scope of the exams, will be communicated to the students about one week before each exam. The exams will include essay type questions. Some questions may involve calculations. Therefore students are advised to bring calculators to the class on exam days.

6.3 Grade review policy

Grades of each exam/assignment will be uploaded on WebCT and also communicated to the students by email. After the grades have been communicated, a student will have a maximum of one week to make a request for review of a particular grade. The students may request such a review by email on WebCT. The instructor will respond to all such requests, in writing, by email. It is the students' responsibility to ensure that any changes to the grade, if agreed to, are updated on WebCT. All grades not disputed within the review period of one week, as laid out above, will not be revisited and should be considered final.

6.4 Distribution of points

Item	Points
Exam-1	100
Exam-2	100
Exam-3	100
Assignment-1	50
Assignment-2	100
Assignment-3	100
Assignment-4	100
In-class lab	50
Attendance	50
Class Participation	50
Final Exam	200
Total	1000

6.5 Letter grading policy

Points earned	Percentage points earned	Grade
900–1000	90-100%	A
800–899	80-89%	B
700–799	70-79%	C
600-699	60-69%	D
0–599	0-59.99%	F

6.6 Retention of materials

All materials will be retained for one (1) month after the last day of the Spring 07 semester for review or grade appeal.

7 Attendance

Class attendance is required and stronglyy suggested. Class roll will be called at the beginning of every class. The student abstaining from a class is responsible for updating himself/herself with missed instructions and other class activities. Such instructions or class discussion will not be repeated. Most class discussions build upon material discussed in previous classes. Therefore students who misses a class may find it hard to keep up with discussion in later classes. If the instructor is not present, students should contact the department office in MAGC 3.302 (381-3353) for appropriate instructions.

7.1 Class participation

Each student is expected to spend appropriate number of hours outside of class to prepare for classes and exams and to complete the assignments. Computer networking classes require a relatively higher investment of time and the students are advised to take this factor into consideration in drawing up their plans of study leading to successful completion of their degrees. The students are strongly advised to read the materials ahead of the classes in which the particular topics are scheduled to be discussed. Active participation is the best approach to maximize learning.

7.2 Class disruption

Arriving late to class and leaving early from class are extremely disruptive and discourteous to the instructor and other students. If a student must leave during a class, prior permission must be obtained from the instructor. Talking, passing notes, sleeping, studying for other classes, or using cell phones are considered disruptive behaviors. The instructor at his discretion, may dismiss a disruptive student from the class or drop such a student from the class roll. These actions may be taken with or without prior warning.

7.3 Drop due to excessive absences

The instructor reserves the right to drop students for excessive absences. The following algorithm will be used to determine when the student has become eligible to be dropped from the class.

> A full presence in a class will count (0). A full absent will count (2). A partial absence (arriving late to the class up-to 15 minutes) will count(1). Each student's attendance count will be cumulatively added through the semester. The instructor, at his discretion, may waive this penalty for students who seek prior permission to abstain for a reasonable cause. The students may note that this waiver is not their right but can be applied only at the sole discretion of the instructor. A cumulative count of greater than (10) points will make a student eligible for his/her drop from the class roll.

8 Communication with the Instructor

The students are encouraged to communicate with the instructor to resolve any issue concerning this class. For email communication, always send emails to *punit@utpa.edu*. The students are strongly advised to follow the protocol given below in their email communications.

- Must include the course number (CIS-3338) in the subject line

- Must use either "UTPA Broncs" or WebCT email for communication

- Must include name of the sender (student) below the message

The students must keep their "UTPA Broncs" email in active condition throughout the semester. The instructor will electronically communicate with students either on the "Broncs" emails or WebCT email. It is necessary that students activate their UTPA email account by the first day of the class and send an e-mail to the instructor. For any technical difficulty contact the "Email support department of UTPA" at phone 381-2020 or by visiting their office in the Academic Service Building.

9   Academic Honesty

University regulations will be enforced regarding dishonorable or unethical conduct (Cheating, Plagiarism, Falsification, Unauthorized Collaboration or Multiple Submissions). Students are expected to work individually on all assignments and exams unless explicitly and specifically stated otherwise by the instructor. Each person's work should be his or her own and should therefore differ significantly from every other person's work. Two or more assignments that are essentially the same will be considered academic dishonesty. Cheating or helping another student to cheat are considered equal cases of academic dishonesty and will be dealt with equally. Any form of academic dishonesty will result in an automatic grade of 0 points for that exam or assignment. Other disciplinary measures may be imposed, up to and including an automatic failing grade in the class. In this class, there will be zero tolerance for dishonorable or unethical conduct. Electronic or physical sharing of answers will be considered cheating and will not be tolerated.

Cheating on examinations involves giving or receiving unauthorized help before, during, or after an examination. Examples of unauthorized help include sharing information with another student during an examination, intentionally allowing another student to view one's own examination, and collaboration before or after an examination which is specifically forbidden by the instructor.

Plagiarism is presenting another person's work as one's own. Plagiarism includes any paraphrasing or summarizing of the works of another person without acknowledgment, including the submitting of another student's work as one's own. Plagiarism frequently involves a failure to acknowledge in the text, notes, or footnotes the quotation of the paragraphs, sentences, or even a few phrases written or spoken by someone else. The submission of research or completed papers or projects by someone else is plagiarism, as is the unacknowledged use of research sources gathered by someone else. Failure to indicate the extent and nature of one's reliance on other sources is also a form of plagiarism. Any work, in whole or part, taken from the Internet or other computer based resource without properly referencing the source (for example, the URL) is considered plagiarism. A complete reference is required in order that all parties may locate and view the original source. The student is responsible for understanding the legitimate use of sources, the appropriate ways of acknowledging academic, scholarly or creative indebtedness, and the consequences of violating this responsibility.

Submission for academic credit of a work product, or a part thereof, represented as its being one's own effort, which has been developed in substantial collaboration with assistance from another person or source, or computer based resource, is a violation of academic honesty. It is also a violation of academic honesty to knowingly provide such assistance.

10   Schedules

10.1   Administrative schedule

Date(s)	Event
16 January	First Day of classes
30 January	Twelfth class day, Census date
14 February	Last day to drop a course or to withdraw from the University with a grade of "DR" or "W" recorded; last day to change to non-credit[1]
12–17 March	Spring Break
13 April	Last day to drop or withdraw through the Office of the Registrar
3–4 May	Limited departmental final examinations, Dead Days
8 May	Final examination

10.2 Exam/Assignment schedule

Event	Date
In-term exam-1	02/28/2007
In-term exam-2	03/28/2007
In-term exam-3	04/30/2007
Assignment-1	01/31/2007
Assignment-2	02/28/2007
Assignment-3	03/31/2007
Assignment-4	04/30/2007
Final Exam	05/07/2007

10.3 Class discussion schedule

Lecture #	Topic
1	Fundamental concepts
2	Concepts of layered stack
3	Analog and Signals
4	Voice and Data Delivery Neworks
5	The Physical Layer – Communication media
6	The Data Link Layer
7	The MAC Layer – Local Area Networks (wired and wireless)
8	The Internet Layer
9	The Transport Layer
10	The Application Layer
11	Errors, Error Detection and Error Control