

CS 391 – Data Communications and Computer Networks Fall 2013

Instructor: George Thomas **Office:** Halsey 218
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Office Hours: MTWR 1:45-3:00
Or by appointment

Lectures: TR 9:40-11:10, HS 208

Prerequisites: CompSci-251, CompSci-271 and Math 212 with a grade of C or better.

Required Textbook:

Computer Networking: A Top-Down Approach (6th Edition), James Kurose and Keith Ross, Pearson, 2013

Course Website: UWO D2L

Note: If you have special needs, please come and talk to me at the end of the first class.

Course Information

Current Course Catalog Description:

An introductory course which covers the basic concepts in data communication and computer networks. Topics covered will include the nature of data communication, characteristics of computer networks, the ISO-OSI network protocol layers, error detection and correction codes, and network performance considerations.

From Fall 1989 CS course catalog:

An introduction to the basic concepts of how data is communicated between points and how computers are coupled together. The course is appropriate for anyone; it has a wide range of applications in computing in the commercial environment as well as in the "hi-tech" fields.

Our Likely Topic Coverage

- Introduction to the Internet and its underlying foundations.
- The layered architecture and the purpose of each layer - Application, Transport, Network and Link layers
- Overview of common network application protocols including email, telnet, ftp, and http.
- Description of the various protocols inside the TCP/IP protocol suite and how internet routing works
- Wireless and Mobile networks, Security in Computer Networks (Time permitting)

Course Grading Policy: Your final grade for this course will be based on four components, namely exams, assignments and homework, labs, and unannounced quizzes and class participation. Your overall numerical grade for the course will be computed as the weighted sum of the component grades using the following weights:

Component	Weight
Exams (3)	50%
Homework and Programming Assignments	35%
Labs	10%
Quizzes and Class Participation	5%

Tentative Exam Dates are as follows:

- **Exam 1 – Thursday, 10/10**
- **Exam 2 – Thursday, 11/14**
- **Exam 3 – Thursday, 12/12**

Your letter grade for the course will be computed as follows:

Numerical Score	Grade	Numerical Score	Grade
≥ 92	A	72-78	C
90-92	A-	70-72	C-
88-90	B+	68-70	D+
82-88	B	62-68	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
78-80	C+	<60	F

While this overall grading scheme is fixed, I will be happy to discuss any issue you may have with individual grades. If you notice a mistake or have a question regarding a specific grade, please come and talk to me *as soon as possible*. Do not wait until the end of the semester to bring up grading issues.

Attendance and Participation: You are expected to not only attend **every** class meeting on time but also to come **prepared** for and **participate** actively in it. Necessary preparation requires you to have studied and assimilated the material covered in previous sessions, to have met with me outside of class to discuss any questions you may have, to have done any assigned readings, quizzes or assignments on time. I **strongly encourage you to ask any question** or raise any issue you have with the course either during or at the end of class, or during my office hours. I will also gladly meet with you by appointment.

Deadlines: Each assignment, homework and lab will come with a deadline (day and time) by which it must be submitted. Late submissions will NOT be accepted. Extensions on deadlines may be granted at the discretion of the instructor if you provide a valid justification (in the form of a written excuse from a medical doctor or the Dean of Students Office) **before** the due date.

If you miss a scheduled exam (tentative dates are provided), you **may** be able to take a make-up exam provided you give the instructor a valid justification (see above) ahead of time if possible. Only one make-up exam will be given. It will be a comprehensive exam scheduled at the end of the semester. Similarly, there will be no make-up quizzes unless the instructor is provided with a valid justification (see above) for your absence on the day of the quiz.

Collaborating versus Cheating: Unless otherwise stated in the assignment or project, all submissions must be entirely your own work. While it is acceptable to discuss the assignments and homework at a high level (for example, at the conceptual level) with others, you must submit your own work. You may not “borrow” any piece of code, written work or design of any length from someone else, unless you can live with a zero and the other potential academic sanctions of cheating (see [UWO Student Discipline Code 2007](#), Chapter UWS 14).