COSC 4342.001 Computer Networks
School of Engineering and Computing Sciences
Fall 2017

A. COURSE INFORMATION
Course number/section: COSC 4342.001
Class meeting time: TR 8:00 - 9:15 AM
Class location: CS-115
Course Website: http://bb9.tamucc.edu

B. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION
Instructor: Dr. Ning Zhang
Office location: CI 339
Office hours: TR 09:30 - 11:30 AM W 3:00-4:00 PM
Telephone: 361-825-3436
e-mail: ning.zhang@tamucc.edu
Appointments: TBD

C. COURSE DESCRIPTION
Catalog Course Description
Computer-based communication systems. Topics include: advanced computer network architectures, protocols, and programming.

Extended Course Description
None

D. PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITES
Prerequisites
COSC 3346 (Operating Systems) and Math 2413 (Calculus I). In particular, students should understand basic computer organization and be able to write programs in C/C++.

Corequisites
None

E. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S), READINGS AND SUPPLIES
Required Textbook(s)

Optional Textbook(s) or Other References
F. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT

Assessment is a process used by instructors to help improve learning. Assessment is essential for effective learning because it provides feedback to both students and instructors. A critical step in this process is making clear the course’s student learning outcomes that describe what students are expected to learn to be successful in the course. The student learning outcomes for this course are listed below. By collecting data and sharing it with students on how well they are accomplishing these learning outcomes students can more efficiently and effectively focus their learning efforts. This information can also help instructors identify challenging areas for students and adjust their teaching approach to facilitate learning.

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Become knowledgeable of the data transmission fundamentals and general principles and concepts of computer networks.
2. Become familiar with the knowledge of local area networking technologies, such as Ethernet, Token Rings, and Wireless Networks.
3. Become familiar with the knowledge of wide area networking technologies (Packet-Switching and Routing).
4. Become familiar with the knowledge of Internet protocols (IP, TCP, and UDP) and security.
5. Become familiar with the network programming and system programming skills.
6. Be able to synthesize ideas presented in the course into new network services, protocols, architectures, or tools.

Assessment of objectives will be conducted through exams, homework assignments, and projects.

G. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

Lectures using online electronic documents and slides.

H. MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

This is a high-level core course. This is a difficult course that demands all students attend all classes! Regular completion of all reading, homework, and other outside assignments, are absolutely essential for success in this course.

Your course grade will be decided on your performance in the homework assignments, projects, and three exams. The distribution of points is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>% of FINAL GRADE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2
**Grading scale:** A: 100-90, B: 89-80, C: 79-70, D: 69-60, and F: 59-0.

**Homework Assignments:** Approximately 4-5 homework assignments will be given. No late homework assignments will be accepted. Partial credit will be given for incomplete assignments.

**Project:** The project can be a programming project (with a final report on the project), a research paper or a survey paper. An in-class presentation is also required for any of the above. The project should be done individually. All projects must be approved by the instructor. Additional details on the project will be available later on the course website.

**Exams:** The first exam will be given on September 28, 2017, the second exam will be given on October 24, 2017 during the scheduled class time, and the third exam will be given on November 16, 2017 and the final exam day which is on December 14, 2017 from 8:00 – 10:30 am will be used for final project and paper presentations.

I. **COURSE CONTENT/SCHEDULE**

| Week 1 | Sep 4, 2017 - Labor Day Holiday  
Chap1: Foundation |
|---|---|
| Week 2 | Chap2: Digital Communication (Physical layer) **HW1**  
Chap3: Direct Link Networks (Data link layer) |
| Week 3 | Chap3: Direct Link Networks, **HW2** |
| Week 4 | Chap3: Direct Link Networks, **Exam 1 (09/28/2017)** |
| Week 5 | Chap4: Internetworking (Network layer), **HW3** |
| Week 6 | Chap4: Internetworking, **Topic Due for Final Project** |
| Week 7 | Chap4: Internetworking |
| Week 8 | **Exam 2 (10/24/2017)**  
Chap5: End-to-End Protocols (Transport layer) **HW4** |
| Week 9 | Chap5: End-to-End Protocols |
| Week 10 | Chap6: Applications (Application layer) |
Week 11: Chap7: Network Security  Exam 3 (11/16/2017)

Week 12: Project and Paper Presentations
    November 23, 2017 - Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 13: Project and Paper Presentations

Week 14: Project and Paper Presentations, Final Project Report Due

Project and Paper Presentations on Thursday, December 14, 2017 from 8:00 - 10:30 AM.

Note: Changes in this course schedule may be necessary and will be announced to the class by the Instructor. The assignments and exams shown are directly related to the Student Learning Outcomes described in Section F.

J. COURSE POLICIES

Course Syllabus: We will meet for lecture on Tuesdays and Thursdays, when new material will be presented. We will follow the text generally, but non-text material may also be included in the lectures. The assignments and exams will be given during the class hours. You are responsible for all the material presented during the lecture.

Exams: Exams will cover all lecture and reading material discussed in the class. Exams must be taken on the hour they are scheduled.

Missed Exam: In the event, if you cannot attend the class to take the exam due to some emergency or some unavoidable situation (such as serious illness, death in the family, participation in university sports, religious observations, and so on) you must notify me as soon as possible before the exam and also you must validate your absence by providing me a document (e.g., with a letter from your doctor). Once your cause is validated a make-up exam will be given.

Homework Assignments: Assignments will significantly build on the material from the lectures. They will be posted on the course web page or hard copies are handed out in the class during the lecture sessions. Please refer to the handout on programming assignments for complete details on submission requirements. (Details decided per assignment). All the assignments are due at the beginning of the class on the due date. If the student is absent on the assignment due date, it is the student's responsibility to see to it that the assignment is submitted on the designated date. An assignment that is turned in after the class on the due date is considered one day late. There is a penalty for late submissions. Late assignments will be counted 20% off for each day after the due time. 100% penalty (i.e. no credit) if submitted after 5 days. If you have not completed your assignment by the due date, you should submit
the work you have done for partial credit. No work will be accepted once the graded work
has been returned or the solution has been disclosed to the class, except for unusual
circumstances which the instructor feels reasonable. Note that any kind of hardware or
software failure or machine unavailability in the lab does not merit an extension on the
assignment. Diskettes upon which major examinations, assignments, projects or papers
submitted may be retained by the instructor as a permanent record of the student's work

Grading Error: All questions concerning a test score or grading of a returned test or
assignment must be resolved within one week. It is always a good idea to keep all of your
work until the end of the semester. In case of any recording errors or doubts, you may
produce them for correction or verification.

Academic Honesty Policy: You are expected to avoid all forms of academic dishonesty as
defined in Catalog. In addition, students are expected to behave in an ethical manner in all
class activities. If you feel uncertain about a particular activity, please speak to me BEFORE
problems arise. Ethical behavior is a requirement for passing this course. All work submitted
for grading must be the student's own work. Plagiarism will result in a score of 0 (zero) for
the work or dismissal from the course and the Dean of Students office will be notified. No
copying from another student's work, of any class, is allowed. It is the student's duty to allow
no one to copy his or her work. Anyone found cheating and/or copying, in the exams or
assignments, in the instructor's opinion, will receive an automatic F for the course.

Collaboration: If two or more people collaborate on an assignment assigned it should be
notified on the assignment and each student should submit his or her solutions for grading.
The grade obtained on such an assignment is the total points obtained for the assignment
divided by the square of the number of people who collaborated on the assignment (e.g., if 3
people collaborate on an assignment and the grade for that assignment is 90 out of 100, then
each student receives a grade of 90/3² = 10). If you do not notify me of such collaboration it
will be treated as copied and action will be taken as discussed under the academic honesty
policy.

Attendance: You must attend all classes and labs. While in class or lab attendance will not
directly affect the grade, you are responsible for any materials covered or handed out or
announcements made for the tests and assignments in your absence. Records of your
attendance will be maintained and reported to the university. Students found missing classes
without the instructor's permission will be automatically withdrawn from the course.

Absence from class: Students are responsible for all materials covered in class and assigned.
Should a student be absent from class, it is his/her responsibility to get the notes, etc. for that
missed class. More important, should there be assignments, it is the student responsibility to
obtain such assignments. No excuse will be accepted for assignments not turned in because
the student was absent when it was due.

Cell Phone Use: Cell phones and pagers must be turned off during class. First violation
receives a warning. All succeeding violations result in a ten points deduction on the final
exam. Any violation during a quiz or exam results in a ten percent deduction off the corresponding paper. No warnings for exams.

**Laptop Use**
Laptops, Tablets cannot be used in the class.

**Food in Class**
No food in the class or labs.

**Student Security Statement:** Please read the [Student Security Statement](#).

### K. COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

- **Academic Integrity (University)**
  University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a failing grade.

- **Classroom/Professional Behavior**
  Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

- **Statement of Civility**
  Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

- **Deadline for Dropping a Course with a Grade of W (University)**
  I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your
academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Please consult the Academic Calendar (http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/calendar/) for the last day to drop a course.

- **Grade Appeals (College of Science and Engineering)**
  As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules website at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html, and the College of Science and Engineering Grade Appeals webpage at http://sci.tamucc.edu/students/GradeAppeal.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the chair or director of the appropriate department or school, the Office of the College of Science and Engineering Dean, or the Office of the Provost.

- **Disability Services**
  The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call (361) 825-5816 or visit Disability Services in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

  If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

  http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/

- **Statement of Academic Continuity**
  In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be
operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

L. OTHER INFORMATION

- Academic Advising
  The College of Science & Engineering requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. Meetings are by appointment only; advisors do not take walk-ins. Please call or stop by the Advising Center to check availability and schedule an appointment. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Center for Instruction 350 or can be reached at (361) 825-3928.

GENERAL DISCLAIMER

I reserve the right to modify the information, schedule, assignments, deadlines, and course policies in this syllabus if and when necessary. I will announce such changes in a timely manner during regularly scheduled lecture periods.