

**MIS 365 Data Communications and Networking
Spring 2007, Unique #s: 03655**

Instructor	:	Yun Huang
Instructor's Office	:	CBA 6.426A
Phone	:	(512) 471-6533
Fax	:	(512) 471-0587
E-mail	:	yun@mail.utexas.edu
Office Hours	:	MW 3:30-4:30pm at CBA 5.336A or by appointment

Class times	:	MW 2:00-3:30pm
Class location	:	UTC 1.130

NetLab TAs	:	
Mike McKim	:	mike.mckim@gmail.com
Bincheng Wu	:	wbc889@gmail.com
Jonathan Pike	:	Jonathan.Pike@bba04.mcombs.utexas.edu

NetLab Location	:	UTC 1.134
------------------------	---	-----------

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Data communications technologies have a central role in the economic and social structures of the society. They influence business processes, organizational structures, and the way people do business, work, and communicate with each other. The data communications landscape is full of coevolving technologies. Some describe it as “The Land of Confusion.” It is challenging to make sense of this landscape because uncertainty, dynamism, and rapid change are some of the inherent characteristics of this world. Yet, those who know how to operate under such circumstances can exploit these characteristics for gaining competitive advantage.

This course is an introduction to fundamentals of data communications technologies as well business opportunities and challenges presented by these technologies. The course covers a balanced mix of data communications fundamentals, emerging data communications technologies, and business and IT management concepts. The first part aims to develop a coherent understanding of the fundamental data communications concepts and technologies. Homework assignments and laboratory exercises are designed to expose students to practical applications of these concepts and technologies. The second part turns to emerging data communications technologies. It applies business and IT management concepts to understand strategic, economic, organizational, and social implications of the emerging technologies at societal, organizational, inter-organizational, team, and individual levels. Students will have a chance to apply their learning through team projects on business implications of an emerging data communications technology of their choice.

The overall goal of the course is to develop high-level skills for framing and answering important business questions about any existing or emerging data communications technology. Students must be committed to developing an independent view of business implications of data communications technologies. They are also expected to actively contribute to the collective learning of the class through debates and presentations. The course uses a combination of lectures, in-class discussions, case studies, and team projects and presentations.

Required Textbook : *Jerry FitzGerald & Alan Dennis “Business Data Communications and Networking” 9th Edition, Wiley, 2006.*

The content and flow of the course are structured around the instructor’s lecture notes. This textbook serves as a complement to the lecture notes.

Lecture slides : Will be posted on the course website before each class.

Course website : Hosted on the Blackboard system <http://courses.utexas.edu/>
Login using your UT EID and select MIS 365

Students are required to log on to the course website before each class to view course-related announcements and to review lecture slides.

Other reading material : The second half of the class will rely on reports, cases, and articles that cover issues around emerging data communications technologies. These readings will either be handed out in class or posted electronically on the course website.

Grading

Technology Case	:	10%
Labs	:	10%
Team Project Presentation	:	10%
Team Project Written Report	:	15%
Participation Assignments	:	10%
Midterm exam-1	:	10%
Midterm exam-2	:	15%
Final Exam	:	20%
Total	:	100%

Technology Case. In-class learning will be reinforced by a technology case write-up on the design of a network infrastructure for an organization. This is a team assignment. A hardcopy and an electronic copy of the case write-up are due by class time on the due date. Late submissions will lose 5 points for each hour of lateness.

Labs. There are five lab sessions associated with this class, which start on the week of October 9 and run for the next five weeks. These labs complement class material and give students an opportunity to gain hands-on experience with basic data communications technologies. Attendance and participation are mandatory. Students must sign up for the lab sessions designated by “NetLab” TAs. Lab sessions will be conducted in the NetLab which is located at UTC 1.134. Pre-lab assignments and instructions will be posted on the course website.

Team Project. In-class learning will be applied in and complemented with a major team project on business implications of an emerging data communications technology. Teams will be composed of about five students. Teams will select an emerging data communications technology and research its business implications in depth. There are two graded deliverables: (1) a presentation to class, and (2) a written project report. Please refer to the course website for specific guidelines, evaluation criteria, and deadlines for the presentation and the written report. At the end of the semester,

students will evaluate contributions of their team members using the peer evaluation form posted on the course website. Individual project grades may be adjusted up or down if the peer evaluations indicate that some team members made significantly above-average or significantly below-average contributions.

Exams. There are two midterm exams and a final exam. All exams are closed book. They are cumulative that each new topic covered in this class builds on the previously covered topics. But each new exam will emphasize the material covered since the previous exam. The exams may contain a mix of open-ended, true/false, and multiple-choice types of questions.

Participation. Classes are most enjoyable and facilitate better learning when students are prepared to interpret the content intelligently, frame good questions, exchange ideas, and seek answers. You are expected to read the assigned material before coming to class and to participate actively in class discussions. Instructor will use small assignments, free write, quizzes, and class activities to assess participation after each class, and use these assessments at the end of the semester to arrive at a participation grade. Attendance earns only 50% of the participation points. The criteria for earning full participation credits are as follows: raising relevant, insightful questions; making comments that build on the ideas of others; helping other students contribute their ideas; offering your own ideas to help analyze cases and to develop a sound course of action; sharing your own personal experiences in a way that adds to our understanding of the topic being discussed; talking with appropriate frequency, i.e., neither dominating the conversation nor being too quiet. A student who misses a class session will not earn any attendance or participation credits for that session. It is possible to make up for the participation credits lost in up to two class sessions by writing a 10-page essay on a data communications topic to be discussed with the instructor. There will be no make-up for the third or additional class sessions missed.

Final Grades. After all grade components are in, a weighted average will be computed, and final letter grades will be assigned as follows: [90-100 = A]; [80-89 = B]; [70-79 = C]; [60-69 = D]; [below 60 = F]. There will be no extra credit assignments, redoing projects or exams.

Make-up and Drop Policy. Make-up labs and exams are not permitted except for documented medical emergencies recognized by the University. If the University policies allow, a student may withdraw/drop the course within the timeframes set by the University. Students who drop the course after the official withdraw/drop timeframe will receive a grade based on what they have earned in the course at that point in time.

Scholastic Dishonesty Policy. The University defines academic dishonesty as cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to avoid participating honestly in the learning process. Scholastic dishonesty also includes, but not limited to, providing false or misleading information to receive a postponement or an extension on an exam or other assignment, and submission of essentially the same written assignment for two different courses without the permission of faculty members. The McCombs School of Business has no tolerance for acts of scholastic dishonesty. The responsibilities of both students and faculty with regard to scholastic dishonesty are described in detail in the Policy Statement on Scholastic Dishonesty for the McCombs School of Business:

By teaching this course, I have agreed to observe all of the faculty responsibilities described in that document. By enrolling in this class, you have agreed to observe all of the

student responsibilities described in that document. If the application of that Policy Statement to this class and its assignments is unclear in any way, it is your responsibility to ask me for clarification. Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty: Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. You should refer to the Student Judicial Services website at <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/> or the General Information Catalog to access the official University policies and procedures on scholastic dishonesty as well as further elaboration on what constitutes scholastic dishonesty

Special Accommodations Policy. The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY.

Class Website and Student Privacy Policy. Password-protected class sites will be available for all accredited courses taught at The University. Syllabi, handouts, assignments and other resources are types of information that may be available within these sites. Site activities could include exchanging e-mail, engaging in class discussions and chats, and exchanging files. In addition, class e-mail rosters will be a component of the sites. Students who do not want their names included in these electronic class rosters must restrict their directory information in the Office of the Registrar, Main Building, Room 1. For information on restricting directory information see: <http://www.utexas.edu/student/registrar/catalogs/gi02-03/app/appc09.html>.