
ECE 4380/6380

Computer Communications

Class Location/Time: 227 Riggs Hall, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 2:30 – 3:20 p.m.
Instructor: Associate Professor Harlan B. Russell (harlanr@clemson.edu)
316 Fluor Daniel Building, Tel: 656-7214
Office Hours: Thur., and Fri., 3:30-5:00 p.m.
Other times by appointment
Grader: Nicholas Tackett [<mailto:nrtacke@g.clemson.edu>]
Prerequisites: Background in C Programming and familiarity with basic probability

Course Description

We will explore the issues for networked communication from local area networks up to the global Internet and we will study a range of solutions to the associated problems. The course goals include the ability to list the concepts in wide-area network architecture, describe protocol layering, and discuss the functional requirements of each layer. By the end of the semester you will be able to analyze different methods for the design and implementation of computer networks, and evaluate the ability of various protocols and equipment to meet specific performance requirements. Preq: Senior standing in Electrical or Computer Engineering or Computer Science

Course Objectives

Competences: Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Understand issues and solutions to networked communication from local area networks to the Internet.
- List the concepts in wide-area network architecture.
- Describe protocol layering and discuss the functional requirements of each layer.
- Analyze different methods for the design and implementation of computer networks and evaluate the ability of various protocols and equipment to meet specific performance requirements.

Knowledge: Upon completion of this course, students will have been exposed to the following:

- Foundation of networks including the classes of applications and the support for common services
- Requirements for networked communications including user, administrator, and designer perspectives
- Approaches to achieve scalable connectivity and cost-effective resource sharing
- Network architecture including layering and protocols with the Internet architecture as the primary example
- Physical layer models including encoding, framing, and error detection
- Protocols for point-to-point and multiple-access links, including Ethernet and 802.11
- Switching at both layer 2 (link layer) and layer 3 (network layer)
- Layer 2 extended local-area network bridging and spanning tree protocols

- i) Layer 3 datagram forwarding (IP), scaling with subnets and supernets, and supporting protocols
- j) Routing and tradeoffs between distance-vector and link-state algorithms
- k) Hierarchical protocols to scale network connectivity to billions of nodes with BGP and IPv6
- l) Support for mobile devices and Mobile IP
- m) End-to-end reliability, adaptive timeout, and flow control
- n) Congestion control and resource allocation including WFQ, TCP congestion control, RED queue management

Skills: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Implement client-server network software with the socket programming interface
- b) Analyze network protocols to evaluate throughput and delay
- c) Calculate bandwidth-delay products and select window sizes to maximize throughput for sliding window protocols
- d) Evaluate local area network performance in the presence of collisions and back off delays
- e) Determine latency in the presence of packet errors for multiple ARQ protocols
- f) Design extended local area networks with redundant connectivity and select configuration details to provide min-max fairness and traffic balancing
- g) Select subnets, masks, and CIDR assignments to maximize utilization of address space and minimize number of entries in forwarding tables
- h) Evaluate convergence time and looping problems with distance-vector and link-state protocols
- i) Calculate delay and fairness for active queue management strategies including weighted-fair queueing and random-early detection
- j) Deploy extended local area network bridges and select spanning tree parameters
- k) Configure OSPF routing daemons and observe control traffic in response to changes in connectivity
- l) Design alternative state machines to adjust TCP establishment and teardown synchronization

Judgment Skills and Critical Abilities: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to

- a) Contrast alternative design approaches to forwarding and routing protocols to address convergence time and scalability
- b) Critique approaches to congestion control algorithms that are router-centric and host-centric with respect to TCP friendliness.
- c) Determine appropriate performance requirements for destination-based versus virtual-circuit forwarding strategies
- d) Evaluate trade-off designs at multiple protocol layers to meet various application performance requirements, including bulk data transfer, streaming content, and near real-time communications

Required Materials

Required textbook: L. Peterson and B. Davie, *Computer Networks: A systems approach*, fifth edition, Morgan Kaufmann Publishers, Inc., 2011

Available at library: M. J. Donahoo and K. L. Calvert, *The Pocket Guide to TCP/IP Sockets, C Version*, Morgan Kaufmann Publishers, Inc., 2001

Topical Outline

Week 1	Introduction to computer network architecture (Reading: 1.1 – 1.3) Implementing network software (Reading: 1.4)
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Week 2	Performance and bandwidth-delay product (Reading 1.5) Direct link networks, encoding, framing, and error detection (Reading: 2.1 – 2.4)
Week 3	Reliable transmission, stop-and-wait, sliding windows, (Reading 2.5) Concurrent logical channels and separation of concerns (Reading 2.5)
Week 4	Shared access networks and carrier-sense multiple-access with collision detection Ethernet and multiple-access networks (Reading 2.6)
Week 5	Wireless networks and 802.11 Carrier-sense multiple-access with collision avoidance (Reading: 2.7)
Week 6	Exam 1 Switching and Forwarding (Reading: 3.1)
Week 7	Bridges, learning bridges Spanning tree algorithm (Reading: 3.1)
Week 8	Basic Internetworking, datagram forwarding (IP) Subnetting, classless addressing, ARP, DHCP, ICMP, VPN (Reading: 3.2)
Week 9	Routing Distance vector and link state algorithms, RIP and OSPF (Reading 3.3)
Week 10	Advanced Internetworking, scalability, and routing areas (Reading: 4.1) BGP, IPv6 (Reading: 4.1)
Week 11	Multicast, multiprotocol label switching (Reading: 4.2 - 4.3) Mobile IP (Reading: 4.4)
Week 12	Exam 2 End-to-end protocols, UDP (Reading: 5.1)
Week 13	Reliable byte stream (TPC) Connection establishment and termination, state diagram Sliding window and flow control with advertised window (Reading 5.2)
Week 14	Congestion control and resource allocation Queueing disciplines and weighted fair queueing (Reading: 6.1 – 6.2)
Week 15	TCP congestion control, slow start, fast retransmit/recovery (Reading: 6.3) Congestion-avoidance, random early detection, source-based avoidance (Reading: 6.4)

Grading

Homework assignments:	15%
Projects:	15%
2 Midterm exams:	15% each
Final Exam:	40%

Three projects will be assigned. The first will explore network programming in C. The second and third will use a virtual environment to experiment with distributed spanning trees and routing protocols.

Students receiving credit for 6380 will be required to cover some topics in more in-depth (e.g., multicasting and MPLS), and will have additional homework problems and exam questions.

A – 90% - 100%; B – 80 to < 90%; C – 70 to < 80%; D – 60 to < 70 & F – < 60% (4380 Students)

A – 90% - 100%; B – 80-89%; C – 70-79%; & F – < 70% (6380 Students)

Additional Policies

Examinations: We shall have two in-class exams, and a final exam. The final exam is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 3. No make-up exams will be given unless an acceptable reason is presented to the instructor at least one week before the examination date. In the event of an emergency, the student must make direct contact with the instructor before an exam takes place or an assignment is due, preferably via email. If it is not possible to make arrangements before the scheduled event, then the student must contact the instructor as soon as it is safe and reasonable to do so. It is the student's responsibility to secure documentation of emergencies.

Re-grades: Re-grade requests must be submitted in writing on a separate piece of paper within one week of the return of the graded item.

Homework: All problem sets are due at the time and date specified on the assignment. No late assignments will be accepted, and they are due at the time class begins.

Projects: Submission of machine problems will be electronically, and policies for late submission will be defined for each machine problem. A passing grade in the course will not be awarded without completion of all programming projects.

We encourage you to discuss interpretations of problems and assignments with each other but we expect that you will construct and write up your own solutions to any assignments that you turn in for credit. If students are found to have collaborated excessively or to have blatantly cheated (e.g., by copying or sharing answers or computer code), all involved will at a minimum receive grades of 0 for the first infraction. Further infractions will result in failure in the course and possibly recommendation for dismissal from the university.

For the programming assignments it is okay to talk with your classmates about the ideas. But when it comes time to write up your answers we expect your words and computer code to be yours alone. Do not share your work with your classmates, as they may not have the same work ethic as you do. Do not ask your classmates to share their files with you, either. In the end, your work should be a reflection of what you understand about the topic, presented in your own words and computer code.

The policies in this syllabus are general policies common to all courses in ECE. Course specific information will likely be included in a separate, course specific syllabus. **Students are responsible for reading and understanding the information in both this common syllabus and in the course specific syllabus.**

The syllabus is subject to change based on extenuating circumstances or at the instructor's discretion. **In the event that there is a conflict or discrepancy between the common syllabus and course specific syllabus, the course specific syllabus overrides the common syllabus.**

Attendance

Unless otherwise stated on the course specific syllabus, **students are expected to attend class, and to arrive on time.**

In the event of an **emergency**, students should contact the course instructor, preferably before class or the exam. Students should speak with instructors regarding any scheduled absence as soon as possible and develop a plan for any make-up work, if allowed by the instructor. It is the student's responsibility to secure documentation of emergencies, if required by the instructor. A student with an excessive number of absences may be withdrawn at the discretion of the course instructor.

If the instructor is late, students are expected to wait 15 minutes for the instructor to arrive.

Any further attendance policies in place will be listed on the course specific syllabus, and will serve to supplement these policies.

Inclement Weather Policy

Any exam that was scheduled at the time of a class cancellation due to inclement weather will be given at the next class meeting unless contacted by the instructor. Any assignments due at the time of a class cancellation due to inclement weather will be due at the next class meeting unless contacted by the instructor. Any extension or postponement of assignments or exams must be granted by the instructor via email or Canvas within 24 hours of the weather related cancellation.

Academic Integrity

As members of the Clemson University community, we have inherited Thomas Green Clemson's vision of this institution as a 'high seminary of learning.' Fundamental to this vision is a mutual commitment to truthfulness, honor, and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of others. Furthermore, we recognize that academic dishonesty detracts from the value of a Clemson degree. Therefore, we shall not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing in any form. In instances where academic standards may have been compromised, Clemson University has a responsibility to respond appropriately to charges of violations of academic integrity.

Further information on Academic Integrity can be found in the [Undergraduate Announcements](#) and in the [Graduate School Policy Handbook](#).

Access Accommodations

Clemson University values the diversity of our student body as a strength and a critical component of our dynamic community. Students with disabilities or temporary injuries/conditions may require accommodations due to barriers in the structure of facilities, course design, technology used for curricular purposes, or other campus resources. Students who experience a barrier to full access to an ECE class should let the professor know, and make an appointment with a staff member in Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible. [Student Accessibility Services](#) coordinates the provision of reasonable accommodations for students with specific physical, emotional, or learning needs. Accommodations are individualized, flexible, and confidential and are based on the nature of the student's needs and the academic environment, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

You can make an appointment by calling 864-656-6848, by emailing studentaccess@lists.clemson.edu, or by visiting Suite 239 in the Academic Success Center building. Appointments are strongly encouraged – drop-ins will be seen if at all possible, but there could be a significant wait due to scheduled appointments. Students who receive Academic Access Letters are strongly encouraged to request, obtain and present these to their instructors as early in the semester as possible so that accommodations can be made in a timely manner. It is the student's responsibility to follow this process each semester. You can access further information here:
<http://www.clemson.edu/academics/studentaccess/>.

Anti-Harassment and Non-Discrimination

Clemson University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender, pregnancy, national origin, age, disability, veteran's status, genetic information or protected activity (e.g., opposition to prohibited discrimination or participation in any complaint process, etc.) in employment, educational programs and activities, admissions and financial aid. This includes a prohibition against sexual harassment and sexual violence as mandated by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. The policy is located at <https://www.clemson.edu/campus-life/campus-services/access/title-ix/policies.html>. Alesia Smith serves as the Title IX Coordinator and the Executive Director of Equity Compliance and may be reached at alesias@clemson.edu or 864-656-3181.

Online Courses

In an online course, you will interact with the content, instructor, and/or classmates on at least a weekly basis through course assignments, asynchronous discussions and/or synchronous sessions as indicated on the course specific syllabus. Further resources for online courses may be found here:
<http://www.clemson.edu/online/students/>.

Computing technology questions may be sent to ITHELP@clemson.edu.

Emergency Procedures

Emergency procedures have been posted in all buildings and on all elevators. Students should review these procedures for their own safety. Students are required to monitor their university email (see <https://www.clemson.edu/studentaffairs/student-handbook/universitypolicies/email-communications.html>) thus establishing this as a convenient method for official communication to students. Students are also encouraged to enroll in CU-Safe alerts. See <https://www.clemson.edu/cusafety> for more information.

Copyright Statement

Materials in some of the courses are copyrighted. They are intended for use only by students registered and enrolled in a particular course and only for instructional activities associated with and for the duration of the course. They may not be retained in another medium or disseminated further. They are provided in compliance with the provisions of the Teach Act. Students should be reminded to refer to the Use of Copyrighted Materials and “Fair Use Guidelines” policy in on the Clemson University website for additional information: <https://www.clemson.edu/library/>.