

My Dear EE450 Students

Greetings. Happy New Year to all. I hope it will be a safe, healthy, and joyful one.

On behalf of my team of Teaching Assistants and Graders, I welcome you all to the 2023 spring semester of EE450 and wish you all a most successful rewarding semester not only in EE450 but in all your other classes as well.

Our course website can be accessed at courses.uscdcn.net. To log-in use your USC e-mail address as the username and create a password of your own. Please do that ASAP. The system is called "D2L: Desire to Learn". I have posted the course outline and the course administration charts along with the first set of charts called Overview (In week 1 folder). I have also posted the textbook for the course "Computer Networking, 8th edition by Kurose and Ross" along with several other references. Get acquainted with the staff members (TAs and Graders) of EE450. I have posted their information on the site (You always need to click on "content" at top bar of the page and scroll down to staff information page).

EE450, along with its companion course (CS402: Operating Systems) are two of the most important courses (ironic since both courses are in the 400 level) that you would take at USC as far as your future in the business (Internship and eventually a full-time position) is concerned. You would think that this is an exaggeration, but the time will come when you say, "Professor Zahid was right"!! The two courses will open doors for endless heavenly opportunities!! (So poetic!!!!).

EE450 is NOT a hard course, it is a FUN course (Real Education is supposed to be FUN!) and I intend to have fun (mostly at your expense of course!!!). It is however a BIG course, and I am a very demanding Professor that does NOT tolerate mediocrity and/or slacking. I do NOT want "pretenders" in my class; ONLY "contenders", dedicated winning students who enjoy learning. My goal is to build a solid foundation in this fascinating field in you and make you fall in love (How romantic!!!) with Networking! I have every intention to achieve this goal. Even though the title of EE450 is "Introduction to Computer Networks", the title is a bit misleading. We shall go into deep details on several aspects of the course. It will be a fun, but bumpy road and I am hoping you will all come along the joy ride with me.

One word about the EE450 "Quiz" section. I received multiple inquiries already about it. This is NOT a weekly session. I only need you for two Fridays

Midterm: Friday, March 3, 4:30 ~ 6:30 PM & 7:00 ~ 9:00 PM

Final: Friday, May 5, 4:30 ~ 6:30 PM & 7:00 ~ 9:00 PM

Both midterm & final will be in-person except of course for my DEN students (DEN will take care of the logistics). I do NOT give make up exams no matter what. So, if you can't make the above dates, drop my course. EE450 is offered in every semester including the summer.

We have currently 2 discussion sessions, One on Friday, the other on Wednesday. It is very important to attend (or watch the webcast) and get to know your TAs personally as they will be the ones who will guide you in your assignments throughout the semester. I will go over this in detail when discussing the course administration on Tuesday. You could also e-mail me if you have inquiries, azahid@usc.edu. Both lectures and discussions session will be webcasted and is available for both EE450 sessions so everyone could view any lecture/discussion session at their convenient time. One word of caution: Do NOT procrastinate! The material will pile-up and it will be too late to catch up.

I am delighted and excited about continuing the in-person education we started in Fall 2021. It is time to embrace happiness whenever some silver lining enters our lives. This vile pandemic will hopefully soon be history, and we can all return to full normalcy soon. In the meantime, get vaccinated, get boosted, wear the mask (if you feel like it), always get sanitized and if you feel ill, please stay at home, and watch the webcasts.

For me at least, the excitement has started already!! I can't wait to talk with you on Tuesday. Until then I bid you all a very pleasant day!

Stay safe and healthy

Professor Zahid