

CSE 6031 Computer Networks

2023 – 2024 Spring Term

Syllabus & Work Plan

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Course Organization

□ Lecture Sessions (2 hours/week) @ class-room

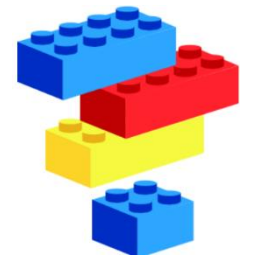
Computer Networks organization & components are presented using the **Internet** architecture as the reference model; network layers & protocols **HTTP**, **DNS**, **TCP/UDP**, **IP**, **ICMP**, **ARP** .. are examined in action, over **real systems**



*Lecture slides are provided to support lecture sessions; their **coverage** is **partial**; they are not meant to be a substitute for the **course textbook & references***

□ Laboratory Sessions (2 hours/week) @ Department Computer Laboratory

Students develop realistic projects, closely integrated to lecture topics, experiment on **live** systems using **contemporary** technologies



Formal contact hours to assist students:

- ✓ on the design & development their **current** project
- ✓ to discuss the problems & solutions of former projects



Projects' Emphasis & Work Procedures

- **Projects** are vital components of *Computer Engineering Curricula*; they do not only play primary role in the **learning process**, but also:
 - ✓ develop students' **analysis, synthesis & design** skills,
 - ✓ foster their **professional proficiencies** working on realistic cases deployed over **industry-standard** platforms using **contemporary** tools



- **Projects** are designed as **self-paced** learning activities, posted at course portal CATS **ahead of laboratory sessions**; students are expected :



- to read & analyze the case as soon as possible, start the design, and development phases
- to attend lab. sessions **ready** to discuss design, implementation problems, and get the support they may need

Students are strongly advised to use **CATS Forums any time** to post:

- ✓ their questions on the **design** and **implementation** issues; and
- ✓ their problems on the test & development platform



Project Development Platform

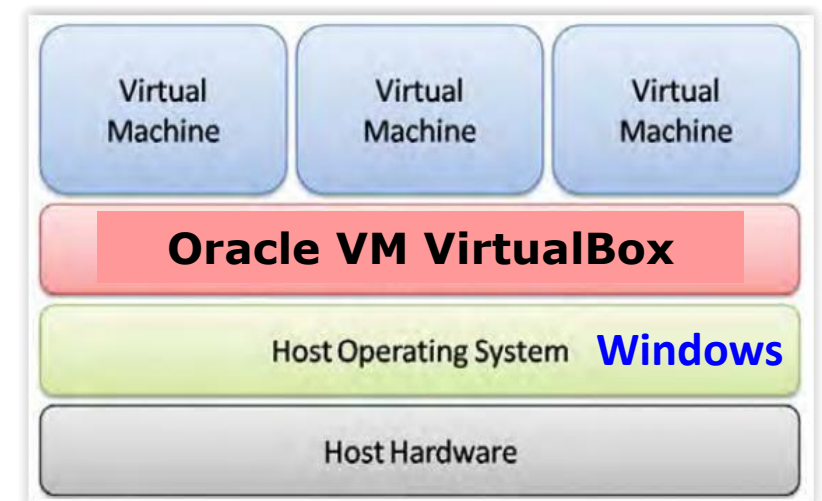
□ Computing & Networking Infrastructure

Projects are designed to be deployed on Dept. Laboratory workstations running **W'10**, connected to the **wired laboratory network**.

Students who own a **personal computer** equipped with at least **i5 CPU**, **8+ GB** memory, **30 GB** disks/virtual machine running **W'10**, may use them at home (*at the labs the PC must be connected to the wired network*)

□ Development Platform

Students will deploy their network over the **Oracle VM VirtualBox** hypervisor using **Virtual Machines** running commercial OSs that are customized for the laboratory systems



Project Platform Rationale

- **Virtualization** is the essential technology used to create today's complex infrastructures
- **W'10** and **Oracle VM VirtualBox** pairing allows students to port project development platform to their personal premises

Teaching & Assessment Methodologies

□ Course Motto

I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand
Confucius 551 - 479 BC

I listen in lectures, and I forget....

I read my book and my notes, and I remember...

I develop & implement my project, and I understand!



□ Assessment Focus

Midterm and final examination will aim at:

- ✓ assessing your **comprehension** of topics covered in **lectures** & **projects**, and
- ✓ testing your **ability** in using your knowledge.

You will be asked to **analyze** a case, to **identify** system components & **explain** how they are built & interoperate, and implement a solution

Projects are integral part of course contents & **assessed in examinations**



Course Assessment & Grading

□ Assessment Components

- ✓ **Projects (45%)** } are your **personal work**; you may collaborate with your peers yet **submitted work** must be fully **your own!**
- ✓ **Mid Term (15%)** }
 - are **open book** assessments
 - cover lecture + project topics
- ✓ **Final (40%)** }



□ Grading Method

- ✓ Lecturer defines **lower** & **upper** limits /100 for “**F**” and “**A**” grades
grading range is divided **linearly in 10 steps**;
- ✓ Your grade is derived from the step corresponding to your weighted total score



For instance, typical **lower** & **upper** limits are **A ≥ 85** and **F < 35**

grades **A-** to **D-** are derived from the range **] 85 .. 35]** split in **5-point** steps

Collaboration, Plagiarism, Cheating

□ What are the Collaboration Rules in Projects?

Collaboration is a great way to learn. Students are encouraged to discuss project concepts and confer on implementation procedures with their peers.

The **key** is to use collaboration as a way to **enhance** learning, and **not as a way of sharing answers without understanding**



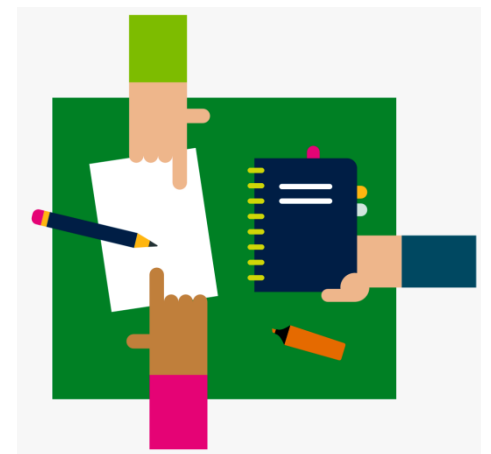
□ Plagiarism

All prose and code that you write for projects must be your own original work. **Any other source** you use must be clearly **identify** and accurately **cited**.

□ Cheating

Submitted work should be exclusively yours, copying or getting help from a 3d party is prohibited. Your submissions should be kept confidential; **sharing them** with others is cheating.

No **distinction** will be made between those **who cheat** and **who facilitate** cheating by revealing their submissions



Syllabus & Targeted Work Plan *(updated as the term progress)*

	Weeks	Lectures (Tue. 09-11 and 13-15)	Lab. Sessions (Wed. 09-18 & Thu 9-11)
1	19/02 – 23/02	✓ Computer Networks & Internet ✓ Layered Protocol Model	Project#1 Deploying Test Platform ✓ Installing and Testing VirtualBox Platform ✓ Testing Wireshark Protocol Analyzer
2	26/02 – 01/03	✓ Link Layer: Interconnecting Technologies ✓ ARP	
3	04/03 – 08/03	✓ Application Layer: Architecture, Socket API	Project#2 Analyzing Protocol Layers ✓ Analyzing DNS Protocol & Service
4	11/03 – 15/03	✓ DNS protocol and Service	
5	18/03 – 22/03	✓ WWW and HTTP	Project#3 AL-TL Interface ✓ Client-Server App. using UDP Sockets API
6	25/03 – 29/03	✓ Transport Layer: Multiplexing, UDP	
7	01/04 – 05/04	Mid Term Examination	
8	08/04 – 12/04	Official Holiday	
9	15/04 – 19/04	✓ Trans. Layer: TCP reliable data transfer	Project#4 Transport Layer ✓ Analyzing HTTP 1.1 protocol pipelining ✓ Analyzing TCP connections
10	22/04 – 26/04	✓ Trans. Layer: TCP flow control	
11	29/04 – 03/05	✓ Trans. Layer: TCP congestion control	Project#5 Network Layer ✓ Static Routing ✓ Subnetting
12	06/05 – 10/05	✓ Network Layer: IP, Static Routing	
13	13/05 – 17/05	✓ Network Layer: IP subnetting, NAT	Project#6 Corporate Network Architecture ✓ Configuring DHCP, DNS forwarders ✓ Deploying Port Forwarding, NAT services
14	20/05 – 24/05	✓ Content Provision Networks	

Course References

Textbook

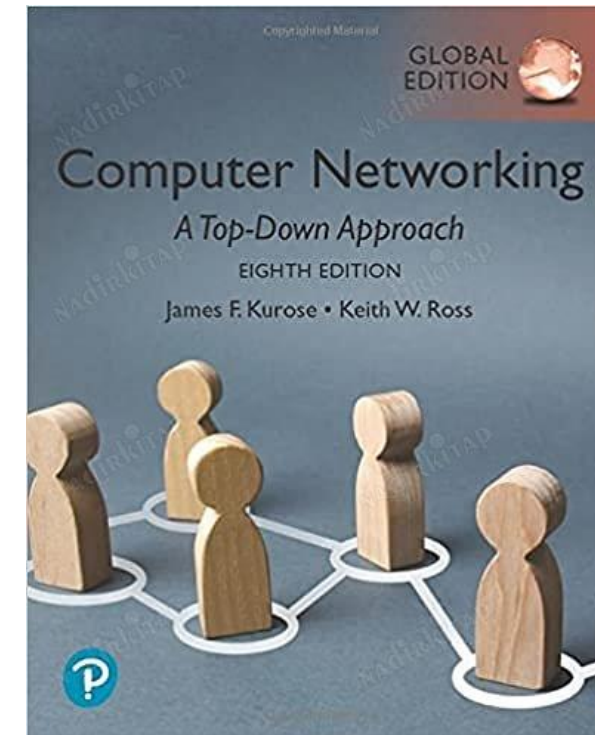
Computer Networking: A Top-Down Approach

James Kurose and Keith Ross

8/E Global Edition, Pearson, 2021

ISBN-13: 978-1-292-40546-9

https://gaia.cs.umass.edu/kurose_ross/index.php



Authors' Web Site

✓ Textbook Power Point Slides

https://gaia.cs.umass.edu/kurose_ross/ppt.php

✓ On-line Lectures

https://gaia.cs.umass.edu/kurose_ross/lectures.php



✓ Knowledge Checks

https://gaia.cs.umass.edu/kurose_ross/knowledgechecks/

✓ End-of-Chapter Exercises

https://gaia.cs.umass.edu/kurose_ross/interactive/