

# COURSE SYLLABUS

**Course Name:** Introduction to Computer Networks  
**Course Number:** CS 372 / ECE 372  
**Credits:** 4  
**Instructor name:** Bill Pfeil  
**Instructor email:** William.Pfeil@oregonstate.edu  
**Prerequisites:** CS 261, and either ECE 271 or CS 271  
**TAs:** Info on Canvas Syllabus Page

## Course Description

Introduction to wired/wireless network principles, organization, topologies, hardware, applications, and protocols in the context of the Internet protocol stack. Configuration and implementation of local area networks and intranets. Internet protocols, packet forwarding, and routing.

## Measurable Student Learning Outcomes

*At the completion of the course, students will be able to...*

1. **Explain** the concept of packet-switching, and identify and analyze the different types of packet delay in packet-switched networks.
2. **Describe** the essential principles of a transport layer protocol (reliable data transfer, flow control, congestion control)
3. **Use** IP addressing and **apply** routing algorithms to find shortest paths for network-layer packet delivery.
4. **Describe** and **compare** data link layer services and multiple access techniques.
5. **Describe** network security issues and some of the methods that address them.
6. **Use** networking tools to observe and analyze behaviors of networking protocols.

## Learning Resources

- Kurose and Ross, *Computer Networking: A Top-Down Approach*, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, Pearson
- Python Socket Programming Documentation: (free online at <http://docs.python.org/2/library/socket.html> ).
- Wireshark Packet Analyzer (free online at <http://www.wireshark.org/> ).
- Pingplotter Full Edition - 14-day Trial ( <http://www.pingplotter.com/download> )  
Don't download Pingplotter until we get there in the labs.
- Hall, Brian, "Beej's Guide to Network Programming: Using Internet Sockets" (free online at <http://beej.us/guide/bgnet> ).
- If you purchase course materials from other sources, be very careful to obtain the correct ISBN.

## Exams

This course requires that you take 2 paper and pencil exams (Midterm and Final). The midterm will be in our normal class meeting place and time. The final exam place and time will be posted later in the term.

## **Evaluation of Student Performance**

Various activities will be evaluated. Percentages are approximate.

- In-class exercises (20%): These are twice-weekly exercises available within Canvas and collected at the end of class.
- Weekly summary exercises (20%): These are weekly exercises available and automatically graded within Canvas. A student may take these two times, and the highest score is taken.
- Labs / reports (20%) These assignments require running specified tests with *Wireshark*.
- Midterm Exam (20%)
- Final Exam (20%)

## **Canvas**

This course will be partially delivered via Canvas (video lectures), and in class, where you will interact with your classmates and with your instructor. Within the course Canvas site you will access the learning materials, such as the syllabus, class discussions, assignments, labs, and quizzes. To preview how an online course works, visit the [Ecampus Course Demo](#). For technical assistance, please visit [Ecampus Technical Help](#).

## **Student Assistance**

- **Contacting the instructor** — [Piazza](#) is the best forum for asking non-personal questions about the course, and students can generally expect a response within several hours. For private (e.g. grade questions) communications, the instructor is available by email.
- **Contacting the TAs** — To contact the TAs, open Canvas Inbox, compose a new message, select this course, then next to the 'To' box click the address book, select "Teaching Assistants", then choose the name(s) of TAs you wish to contact.
- **Office Hours** — Office hours will be held online through Slack and also on-campus. From the "Syllabus" page, check the "Where to go for Help?" tab and then click on the relevant link during an active office hour to join in (online), or head to the listed location (on-campus).
- **Technical Assistance** — If you experience computer difficulties, need help downloading a browser or plug-in, assistance logging into the course, or experience any errors or problems while in your online course, contact the OSU Help Desk for assistance. You can call (541) 737-3474, email [osuhelpdesk@oregonstate.edu](mailto:osuhelpdesk@oregonstate.edu) or visit the [OSU Computer Helpdesk](#) online.
- **Tutoring** — [NetTutor](#) is a leading provider of online tutoring and learner support services fully staffed by experienced, trained and monitored tutors. Students connect to live tutors from any computer that has Internet access. NetTutor provides a virtual whiteboard that allows tutors and students to work on problems in a real time environment. They also have an online writing lab where tutors critique and return essays within 24 to 48 hours. Access NetTutor from within your Canvas class by clicking on the NetTutor icon (after I get it set up).

## **Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities**

Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and [Disability Access Services \(DAS\)](#) with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098.

## **Course Content**

See the course Schedule PDF for the course content.

## **Communication**

### ***Ground Rules for Online Communication & Participation:***

- *Online threaded discussions* are public messages, and all writings in this area will be viewable by the entire class or assigned group members. If you prefer that only the instructor reads your communication, send it to the instructor directly by email, making sure to identify yourself and the course.
- Posting of personal contact information is discouraged (e.g. telephone numbers, address, personal website address).
- *Online Instructor Response Policy:* Instructor/TAs check email frequently and will respond to course-related questions within 48 hours if you use a [CS372] prepended email tag.
- *Observation of "Netiquette":* All your online communications must be composed with fairness, honesty and tact. Spelling and grammar are very important in an online course. What you put into an online course reflects on your professionalism. Here are some references discussing
  - writing online: <http://goto.intwg.com/>
  - netiquette: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>
- Please check Piazza and the course syllabus before you ask general course questions. If you don't see your answer there, then post a new question on the Piazza Q&A threads.

(Adapted from Jean Mandernach, PSY)

### ***Guidelines for a productive and effective classroom***

- Complete the readings, view the online lectures, and take notes prior to coming to class.
- Participate actively in class discussions and group work.
- Pay close attention to what your classmates are posting on Slack and Piazza. Ask clarifying questions, when appropriate. These questions are meant to probe and shed new light ... not to minimize or devalue comments.
- Think through and reread your comments before you post them.
- Assume the best about others in the class and expect the best from them.
- Value the diversity of the class. Recognize and value the experiences, abilities, and knowledge each person brings to class.
- It's OK to disagree with ideas, but do not make personal attacks.
- Be open to being challenged or confronted on your ideas or prejudices.

(Adapted from Susan Shaw, WS)

## **Course Policies**

### ***Late Work***

You may submit at most ONE Lab up to 48 hours late for full credit. To receive this credit, you must follow this procedure:

1. Before the due date, in Canvas, go to "Grades"
2. Select the assignment (e.g. Lab 2)
3. On the right side of the screen, in the "Add a Comment" box enter "Grace Days" and submit.

### ***Makeup Exams***

Makeup exams will be given only for exams excused in advance by the instructor. Excused absences will not be given for airline reservations, routine illness, or other common ailments. Excused absences will generally not be given after the absence has occurred, except under very unusual circumstances

### ***Incompletes***

Take this course only if you plan to finish it in a timely manner (during this term). "I" or incomplete is assigned only when there is a compelling case for doing so (e.g. health reasons, military commitment). An incomplete will not be assigned unless the individual has completed over 50% of the course tasks.

**Grading Scheme**

The grading scheme for this course is as follows:

93+	A
90 – 92.9	A-
87 – 89.9	B+
83 – 86.9	B
80 – 82.9	B-
77 – 79.9	C+
73 – 76.9	C
70 – 72.9	C-
67 – 69.9	D+
63 – 66.9	D
60 – 62.9	D-
0 – 59.9	F

**Expectations for Student Conduct**

Student conduct is governed by the university's policies, as explained in the [Office of Student Conduct: Information and Regulations](#).

**Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to comply with all regulations pertaining to academic honesty. For further information, visit [Avoiding Academic Dishonesty](#), or contact the office of Student Conduct and Mediation at 541-737-3656.

**Conduct in this Classroom**

In an academic community, students and faculty, and staff each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment, whether online or in the classroom. Students, faculty, and staff have the responsibility to treat each other with understanding, dignity and respect. Disrespectful behavior to others (such as harassing behavior, personal insults, inappropriate language) or disruptive behaviors in the course (such as persistent and unreasonable demands for time and attention both in and out of the classroom) is unacceptable and can result in sanctions as defined by Oregon Administrative Rules [Division 015 Student Conduct Regulations](#).

**OSU Student Evaluation of Teaching**

Course evaluation results are extremely important and are used to help me improve this course and the learning experience of future students. Results from the 19 multiple choice questions are tabulated anonymously and go directly to instructors and department heads. Student comments on the open-ended questions are compiled and confidentially forwarded to each instructor, per OSU procedures. The online Student Evaluation of Teaching form will be available toward the end of each term, and you will be sent instructions via ONID by the Office of Academic Programs, Assessment, and Accreditation. You will log in to "Student Online Services" to respond to the online questionnaire. The results on the form are anonymous and are not tabulated until after grades are posted.