

# CS 391: Data Communication and Computer Networks

**Term:** Spring 2021  
**Credits:** 3  
**Meets:** Online/synchronous, MWF 10:10 AM – 11:10 AM  
**Prerequisites:** A grade of C or better in CS 212, CS 251, and CS 271

## Instructor

---

**Instructor:** Scott Summers  
**Email:** [summerss@uwosh.edu](mailto:summerss@uwosh.edu)  
**Phone:** 920-424-1324  
**Office:** Halsey 220  
**VIRTUAL Office hours:** Everyday at 1:00 – 2:00 PM,  
via Collaborate Ultra (email me first to get a session link).

## Getting started

---

First, get the **required** textbook (see below). Then, on **Monday, February 1, starting at 10:00 AM**, log into Canvas at <http://canvas.uwosh.edu/>. Click on the COMP SCI 391-001C tile. Then, follow the instructions in the “Welcome!” announcement. If, for whatever reason, you can’t attend the first day, then please email me. Otherwise, you will be dropped from the class.

## Course description

---

An introductory course which covers the basic concepts in data communication and computer networks. Topics covered will include the nature of data communication, characteristics of computer networks, the ISO-OSI network protocol layers, error detection and correction codes, and network performance considerations.

## Actual topic coverage

---

1. Introduction to the Internet and its underlying foundations
2. The layered architecture and the purpose of each layer: application, transport, network, link, and physical layers
3. Overview of common network application protocols (e.g., email, Telnet, FTP, and HTTP)
4. Description of the various protocols in the TCP/IP protocol suite and how internet routing works

## Course Format: online

---

This course is 100% online. We will have live sessions through Collaborate Ultra every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, between 10:10 AM and 11:10 AM.

My office hours will be conducted exclusively online, also through Collaborate Ultra. I have office hours everyday between 1:00 PM and 2:00 PM. If you would like to meet with me, then please simply send me an email between 12:50 PM and 1:50 PM and simply ask if I’m available. Then, as soon as I’m available, I’ll respond to your email with a link to a private Collaborate Ultra video session.

## Course Website

---

The course website is Canvas: <https://canvas.uwosh.edu/>. You should check Canvas on a regular basis, perhaps two or three times per day.

## Course Objectives

---

At conclusion of the course, students will:

1. Be able to evaluate the performance of a single link, logical process-to-process (end-to-end) channel, and a network as a whole in terms of latency, bandwidth, and throughput.
2. Be able to differentiate among and discuss the levels of addresses (physical, logical, port, etc.) used by the TCP/IP protocols.
3. Understand the concept of reliable and unreliable transfer protocol of data and how TCP and UDP implement these concepts, to understand the client/server model and socket API with their implications.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the significance and purpose of protocols and standards and their key elements and use in networking.
5. Understand the purpose of network layered models, network communication using a layered architecture, and be able to compare and contrast the Open System Interconnect (OSI) and the Internet models.
6. Be able to distinguish between the different types of bit errors and explain the concept of bit redundancy and how it is generally achieved in the facilitation of error detection and the main methods of error correction.
7. Understand internetworking principles and how the Internet protocols IPv4, IPv6 and ICMP operate.
8. Understand routing principles and algorithms, such as distance vector and link state, RIP, OSPF, and BGP.
9. Explain the differences between control and congestion control at the transport layer as well as how these functions are implemented in TCP.
10. Describe how popular application-level protocols (such as HTTP, SMTP, DNS) work.

## Required Textbook

---

The following textbook is required: Computer Networking - A Top-Down Approach James F. Kurose and Keith W. Ross 7th Edition, 2017, Pearson

## Course Grade

---

Your final course grade will be based on the following components.

### **30% PROGRAMMING ASSIGNMENTS**

There will be five programming assignments. All programs will be equally-weighted.

### **10% QUIZZES**

Online quizzes will be given every Friday through Canvas and only during weeks in which there isn't an exam. You will be given 25 minutes for each quiz. You should work each quiz in isolation. Quiz material

will come from the lecture notes, textbook and homework assignments.

### 60% EXAMS

There will be three equally-weighted in-class exams. Exam material will come from the lecture notes, quizzes, textbook and programming assignments. There will be more information about each exam as it approaches. The actual exam dates will be announced in class at least one week before the exam. All exams will be taken during the regular class period.

If you are unable to take a scheduled exam, it may be possible to take a make-up exam provided that you do both of the following, which are then subject to my approval:

1. Make arrangements prior to the scheduled exam (for last minute emergencies, telephone me at 920-424-1324 or leave a message at the Computer Science office, 920-424-2068. **No after-the-fact notifications will be accepted.**
2. Have a written medical excuse signed by the attending physician OR have a note of justification from the Dean of Students Office.

If allowed, only one make-up exam will be given. It will be a comprehensive exam given at an arranged time during the last week of the semester.

## Grading Scale

---

Grading will be on a plus/minus system. Grading may be done on a curve depending on the overall performance of the class. If no curve is used, then your grade will be computed based on the following:

Percentage	Grade
> 91	A
> 89 and $\leq$ 91	A-
> 87 and $\leq$ 89	B+
> 81 and $\leq$ 87	B
> 79 and $\leq$ 81	B-
> 77 and $\leq$ 79	C+
> 71 and $\leq$ 77	C
> 69 and $\leq$ 71	C-
> 67 and $\leq$ 69	D+
> 61 and $\leq$ 67	D
> 55 and $\leq$ 61	D-
$\leq$ 55	F

## Re-grading

---

If you believe a program or exam was graded incorrectly or unfairly and would like to have it re-graded, please let me know about it in writing within one week of receiving the program or exam back. I will re-grade the entire program or exam and you may gain or lose points.

## Late Work

---

Late work will NOT be accepted. Late work is worth 0 points. Extensions may be granted at the discretion of the instructor and only in rare cases.

## **University Policy on Academic Integrity**

---

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh is committed to a standard of academic integrity for all students. The system guidelines state: “Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of source, and for respect of others academic endeavors” (UWS 14.01, Wisconsin Administrative Code).

Often, students are not aware of the ways to identify and avoid plagiarism. Therefore, it is important to educate yourself about how to give proper credit to sources that you use in your assignments. For writing assignments, you can consult the Purdue Owl website on how to identify and avoid plagiarism: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/02/> and <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/03/>. This website outlines the strategies for avoiding plagiarism in this course. However, other courses may demand knowing other ways to identify and avoid plagiarism. Therefore, I encourage you to consult with me if it is unclear to you how you give proper credit to your sources of information.

In sum, all material turned in for this course must be original. In this course, you may not re-use papers or projects from other sections of this course, from other courses you have completed, or other courses you are currently completing. This class is a specific event in your learning process. To learn, you must engage in the material and complete the work. Thus, work from other experiences is not acceptable. All work turned in that is plagiarized will receive a “0” in the course.

## **Students’ Rights and Responsibilities: Course Policies**

---

### **WELCOME STUDENTS!**

As a University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh student, you have rights and responsibilities regarding your relationship with both the classroom and university community. The policies in the course specifically as well as at UW–Oshkosh generally are in place to foster an equitable and safe classroom and campus climate. The primary goal of all policies is to create a classroom and campus community in which all students can access learning, achieve success and reach their goals. Your rights and responsibilities are important to know both so that you can enhance your learning experience and contribute positively to the campus climate. Specific policies and procedures can be accessed through the Student Affairs Policies and Procedures webpage (<https://www.uwosh.edu/stuaff/policies-procedures>).

### **INCLUSION STATEMENT**

Building relationships and community is one of the most important goals of the course. The only way to build community in this course is to honor each person in terms of their identity. Each student in the course will conceive of their identity in different ways; aspects of identity important to students in the course may include race, ethnicity, ability, sex, sexuality, gender, gender expression, gender identity, religious beliefs, political affiliations, and/or class. Thus, each of us, myself included, must honor each student’s identity in all its complexity. We need to work on taking up perspectives unlike our own, challenging our assumptions and finding a route toward understanding the similarities and differences between ourselves and others.

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Most importantly, students with disabilities are welcome in this course! If you need alternative/additional instructional structure for this class due to specific individual learning needs, please talk to me and we can work together. I am committed to creating an environment conducive to learning for all students.

## **UNIVERSITY POLICY ON TYPES OF EXCUSED ABSENCES**

There are several forms of absences that are excused under University policy: “Students are excused from class for participation in all-University events [GEN 4.B.10 (1)(b)] and for circumstances beyond the students’ control including, but not limited to medical or family emergencies (medical care for pregnancy, illness, child care issues, death or serious health problem of family member), court appearance, required military service not to exceed two (2) weeks unless special permission is granted by the instructor or chair, jury duty, etc.” Student responsibility: “Students are responsible for notifying the instructor. . . as far in advance as possible and may not be penalized for such absences as long as appropriate documentation is provided in a timely fashion to the instructor to verify the reason for the absence.” Instructor responsibility: “Instructors are responsible for providing reasonable accommodation or opportunities to make up course obligations that have an impact on the course grade.”

## **RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS**

Both University policy and state policy requires that instructors honor students sincerely held religious and faith traditions by making accommodations for religious holidays or other days of special religious significance. If there is a scheduling conflict for you between attending a course session and/or completing coursework on a day of religious observance, then, it is necessary to “notify the instructor within the first three weeks of the beginning of classes of the specific days or dates on which you will request relief from an examination or academic requirement.”

## **CREATING A SPACE FREE FROM SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

The University policy on sexual harassment is very clear: it will not be tolerated anywhere on campus, including the classroom. Sexual harassment is defined by the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh as follows: “Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination. It [is] . . . the inappropriate introduction of sexual activities or comments into the work, learning, or living situation. Such behavior is not acceptable at the UW–Oshkosh and will result in disciplinary action.”

## **ATTENDANCE**

I am dedicated to your success and know that attendance is crucial to achieving improvement in your skills and abilities and, thus, your success in the course. Therefore, I may keep track of attendance weekly. Missing two weeks or more of the course may result in a failing final course grade. In turn, if I receive no communication from you for two weeks, I reserve the right to withdraw you from the course.

If you experience difficulties such as illness or death in the family or other significant disruptions in your life as discussed in the section on excused absences above, then, please communicate with me about your situation and we will forge a plan on how to best catch you up in the course.

## **DROPBOX**

Odd things happen in cyberspace-emails get lost, servers disconnect temporarily, and logins fail. Due to this challenge, you should anticipate possible mishaps and complete your work with enough time to meet the deadline. In turn, timely communication aids success: reply to emails received and check for replies to your sent emails. With these strategies, you will be able to meet my expectations of getting work in on time.