

CSCI 373: *Data Communications and Computer Networks*
General information

The instructor for *CSCI 373* is Dean Brock. The course will meet on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:25 AM to 10:40 AM.

The textbook for the course is William Stallings's *Data and Computer Communications*, published by MacMillan (ISBN 0-02-415454-7). In the course we will study networking concepts and several widely used network architectures. We will cover the following topics, listed below with related sections of the textbook and *expected* number of class periods:

Protocols and standards	Chapter 1	2 classes
Transmission media (coax, fiber, etc.)	Section 2.4	2 classes
Digital data communication	Chapter 4	2 classes
Data link control	Sections 5.2 and 5.3	2 classes
Switching	Chapter 7	1 class
Circuit switching	Sections 8.1 and 8.2	1 class
Local area networks	Sections 11.1 to 11.4 and 11.A	3 classes
Network programming	<i>to be determined</i>	2 classes
OSI reference model	Sections 12.1 and 12.2	2 classes
Network layer protocols	Sections 13.1	1 class
Internetworking	Chapter 14	3 classes
Transport protocols	Sections 15.1 and 15.5	1 class
Session protocols	Sections 16.1 and 16.2	1 class
Applications	Chapter 17	2 classes

Although you are only required to read those sections of the book that we cover in class, you will find it useful to read the entire book, and I'll hope you'll do so during the semester.

Grades will be based on a combination of graded homework and exams, two in-class exams and one final. In the weighing of graded material for the assignment of final grades, homework will count one-third, the in-class exams, one-sixth each, and the final exam one-third. The first in-class exam will be in early October. Most likely, the second in-class exam will be mid-November. The final exam is scheduled for Thursday, December 17, 9:25 AM to 11:55 AM.

Most homework will be problems chosen from the textbook. One homework assignment will be a written review of a networking article. If a significant portion of the class has had experience with the C programming language or the Unix operating system, there will be one or two programming assignments. Students in the class will receive accounts on UNCAVX; however, any programming would be done on the department's Unix computers.

Beginning of Soap Box lecture

If you're a Junior in Computer Science and aren't a C guru, it's time to become one!

End of Soap Box lecture

My office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM. However, I do frequently read electronic mail and sending a message to my computer account, `brock@cs.unca.edu`, is generally the best way to get a prompt response. If the electronic mail address `brock@cs.unca.edu` looks unusual to you, you need to take a course in computer networking.