# Course Outline Public

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## Course Details

| | |
|---|---|
| **Course Code** | COMP3331/9331 |
| **Course Title** | Computer Networks and Applications |
| **Units of Credit** | 6 |
| **Lecturer** | Salil Kanhere |
| **Admin** | Nadeem Ahmed |
| **Classes** | Lectures: Tuesday 0900 - 1100 Hrs, Thu 1400 -1600 Hrs Ainsworth G03 ( Campus Map (https://student.unsw.edu.au/maps) )<br>Timetable (/COMP3331/19T3/timetable) for all classes. |
| **Consultations** | Tuesday 11:30 -12:30, Thursday 16:30 - 17:30<br>Venue: Room 612, Level 6, CSE (K17) |
| **Course Website** | https://webcms3.cse.unsw.edu.au/COMP3331/19T3 (https://webcms3.cse.unsw.edu.au/COMP3331/19T3) |
| **Handbook Entry** | http://www.handbook.unsw.edu.au/undergraduate/courses/current/COMP3331.html (http://www.handbook.unsw.edu.au/undergraduate/courses/current/COMP3331.html) |

## Course Summary

This course is an introductory course on computer networks, aimed at students with a background in computer science / electrical engineering. We will focus on common paradigms and protocols used in present data communication. Through lectures, in-class activities, labs and assignments, you will learn the theory and application of

(1) medium access control, congestion control, flow control, and reliable transmission,

(2) addressing and naming,

(3) routing and switching,

(4) widely used protocols such as Ethernet, IP, TCP, UDP, HTTP, etc.

(5) security threats and common defensive techniques, and

(6) special purpose networks such as content delivery networks, peer-to-peer networks and wireless networks.

This is a combined undergraduate and postgraduate course.

# Course Timetable

There will be 4 hours of lectures every week:

(i) 2-hour lecture on Tuesday 09:00 - 11:00 and

(ii) 2-hour lecture on Thursday 14:00 - 16:00

both in Ainsworth G03 (K-J17-G03).

There will be 2-hour labs during 9 weeks (starting in Week 2). The detailed lab schedule will be posted on lab exercises page. The detailed course timetable is available here (/COMP3331/19T3/timetable) .

# Course Aims

- To provide an in-depth introduction to a wide range of topics in the field of computer networks including the Internet.
- To get a hands-on understanding of the working of network protocols.
- To gain expertise in network programming, designing and implementing network protocols, evaluating network performance and problem-solving skills.
- To build the necessary foundational knowledge required in subsequent networking courses (COMP4335-4337, COMP9332-9337).

# Student Learning Outcomes

**After completing this course, students will:**

- have a working knowledge of computer networks, and will be able to demonstrate their knowledge both by describing aspects of the topics and by solving problems related to the topics
- have a solid understanding of the current architecture of the Internet and the entities involved in its operations
- be able to identify soundness or potential flaws in proposed protocols
- be equipped with the necessary skills to design networked applications and protocols
- implement and write protocols and applications in C, Java or Python
- analyse and evaluate the performance of computer networks
- be able to capture and analyse network traffic
- be able to understand and explain security and ethical issues in computer networking

**This course contributes to the development of the following graduate capabilities:**

| Graduate Capability | Acquired in |
|---|---|
| scholarship: understanding of their discipline in its interdisciplinary context | lectures, labs, assignment |
| scholarship: capable of independent and collaborative enquiry | labs, assignment |
| scholarship: rigorous in their analysis, critique, and reflection | lectures, labs, exams, sample problems |
| scholarship: able to apply their knowledge and skills to solving problems | labs, assignment, exams, sample problems |
| scholarship: capable of effective communication | labs, assignment, lectures, exams |
| scholarship: information literate | all aspects of the course |
| scholarship: digitally literate | all aspects of the course |
| leadership: collaborative team workers | labs, assignment |
| professionalism: capable of independent, self-directed practice | all aspects of the course |
| professionalism: capable of lifelong learning | all aspects of the course |
| professionalism: capable of operating within an agreed Code of Practice | labs, assignment |
| global citizens: culturally aware and capable of respecting diversity and acting in socially just/responsible ways | labs, course forums |

# Assumed Knowledge

Before commencing this course, students should:

- **have a good understanding of data structures and algorithms, basic probability theory.**
- **be able to write working programs in C, Java or Python. The course will include programming assignment and labs.**

# Teaching Rationale

This course takes a top-down approach to teaching computer networks. The rationale behind this is that most students have first-hand experience using applications running over the Internet. This allows them to relate to each layer of protocol stack as we travel down the layers. Once they are committed, they participate in appropriate cognitive aspects such as learning the details with a focus to understand them. Students get mentally prepared to answer questions where very often there is no single answer or the answers can be unexpected. This results in deep learning and gives students a sense of accomplishment and confidence.

Learning will be largely facilitated through the delivery of lectures. The hands-on laboratories will provide an opportunity to gain deeper understanding of the concepts discussed in the lectures. The sample problems, homework problem set and tutorials will help in the development of problem-solving skills and in preparing for the exams. The programming assignments are mainly geared to allow students to gain familiarity with basic network programming and designing network protocols.

# Teaching Strategies

- **Lectures:** introduce theory and concept and demonstrate how they apply in practice
- **Lab Work:** reinforce concepts taught in lectures by conducting hands-on experiments and analyse network performance

- **Assignment:** allow students to design and implement network protocols and evaluate network performance
- **Homework Problems:** allow students to solve problems based on content from lectures, develop problem-solving skills, assist with exam preparation
- **Consultations, Tutorials and Course Forum:** allow students an opportunity to ask questions and seek help.

# Assessment

There will be four assessment components as listed below:

| Component | Weight |
|---|---|
| Lab Exercises | 20% |
| Programming Assignment | 20% |
| Mid-term Exam | 20% |
| Final Exam | 40% |

To pass the course a student MUST receive at least 40% marks in the final exam. The following formula outlines precisely how the final mark will be computed:

```
lab = marks for lab exercises (scaled to 20)
assign = marks for the programming assignment (out of 20 marks)
midTerm = mark for the mid-term exam (out of 20 marks)
finalExamScaled = scaled mark for the final exam (out of 40 marks)
mark = lab + assign + midTerm + finalExamScaled
grade = HD|DN|CR|PS if mark >= 50 && finalExamScaled >= 16
      = FL          if mark < 50
      = UF          finalExamScaled < 16
```

# Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

**Plagiarism** is defined as (https://student.unsw.edu.au/what-plagiarism) *using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own* . UNSW and CSE treat plagiarism as academic misconduct, which means that it carries penalties as severe as being excluded from further study at UNSW. There are several on-line sources to help you understand what plagiarism is and how it is dealt with at UNSW:

- Plagiarism and Academic Integrity (https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism)
- Student Code Policy (https://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/studentcodepolicy.pdf)
- Student Misconduct Procedure (https://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/studentmisconductprocedures.pdf)
- Plagiarism Policy (https://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/plagiarismpolicy.pdf)
- UNSW Plagiarism Procedure (https://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/plagiarismprocedure.pdf)
- Essential Advice for CSE students (https://www.engineering.unsw.edu.au/computer-science-engineering/about-us/organisational-structure/student-services/policies/essential-advice-for-cse-students)

Make sure that you read and understand these. Ignorance is not accepted as an excuse for plagiarism. In particular, you are responsible for the safe-keeping of your assignment files such that they are not accessible by anyone but you by setting proper permissions on your CSE home directory and/or on online code

repositories. Note also that plagiarism includes paying or asking another person to do a piece of work for you and then submitting it as your own work.

# Course Schedule

The following table lists the tentative weekly schedule. Students will be informed of any changes during the lecture and by announcements on the notices page.

| Week | Lecture Dates | Lecture Topics | Labs | Assessment Tasks |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 17 & 19 Sep 2019 | Course Logistics<br>Introduction:<br>• What is the Internet?<br>• Network edge and core<br>• Performance of networks | No Lab | |
| 2 | 24 & 26 Sep 2019 | Introduction:<br>• Layering and Encapsulation<br>Application Layer:<br>• Principles of networked applications<br>• The Web & HTTP<br>• Email<br>• Domain Name Service (DNS) | Lab 1 | Lab 1 submission deadline: 12 Noon Monday 30 Sep 2019 |
| 3 | 1 & 3 Oct 2019 | Application Layer:<br>• Peer-to-Peer Networks and DHT<br>• Content Distribution Networks<br>• Socket Programming | Lab 2 | Lab 2 submission deadline: 12 Noon Tuesday 8th Oct 2019 |
| 4 | 8 & 10 Oct 2019 | Transport Layer:<br>• Transport services<br>• Multiplexing & Demultiplexing<br>• UDP<br>• Principles of reliable data delivery | Lab 3 | Lab 3 submission deadline: 12 Noon Monday 14 Oct 2019<br><br>**Assignment Released** |

| Week | Lecture Dates | Lecture Topics | Labs | Assessment Tasks |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 15 & 17 Oct 2019 | Transport Layer:<br>• Pipelined Protocols<br>• TCP<br>• Connection management & flow control | Tutorial 1 | |
| 6 | 22 & 24 Oct 2019 | Transport Layer:<br>• Congestion control<br>• Fairness<br>Network Layer, Data Plane:<br>• Overview | Lab 4 | **Mid-term Exam on 22 Oct 2019**<br>Lab 4 submission deadline: 12 Noon Monday 28 Oct 2019 |
| 7 | 29 & 31 Oct 2019 | Network Layer, Data Plane:<br>• IP<br>• Addressing<br>• NAT<br>• IPv6 | Lab 5 | Lab 5 submission deadline: 12 Noon Monday 4 Nov 2019 |
| 8 | 5 & 7 Nov 2019 | Network Layer, Control Plane:<br>• Routing algorithms<br>• Link State and Distance Vector<br>• Hierarchical routing<br>• ICMP<br>Link Layer:<br>• Error detection | Lab 6 | Lab 6 submission deadline: 12 Noon Monday 11 Nov 2019 |
| 9 | 12 & 14 Nov 2019 | Link Layer:<br>• Multiple Access Protocols<br>• Link Layer Addressing and ARP<br>• Ethernet<br>• Switches<br>Wireless Networks<br>• Wireless characteristics<br>• 802.11<br>• CSMA/CA | Lab 7 | Lab 7 submission deadline: 12 Noon Monday 18 Nov 2019 |

| Week | Lecture Dates | Lecture Topics | Labs | Assessment Tasks |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | 19 Nov 2019 | A day in the life of a web request<br>Network Security<br>• Basic Cryptography<br>• Message integrity & Digital signatures<br>• Authentication | Tutorial 2 for Exam Prep | **Assignment Due** |
| Exam Period | 29 Nov 2019 onwards | Exam Period | | **Final Exam** |

# Resources for Students

**Course Textbook:**

- Computer Networking - A Top-Down Approach Featuring the Internet, J. Kurose and K. Ross, Pearson, 7th Edition, 2017 (Sixth edition will suffice for most parts).

**Reference Texts:**

- Unix Network Programming Volume 1 - Networking APIs: Sockets and XTI, W. Richard Stevens, Prentice Hall, Second Edition, 1998.
- Java Network Programming, E. R. Harold, O'Reilly, Third Edition, 2004.
- Learning Python, Mark Lutz, O'Reilly, Fifth Edition, 2013.
- Computer Networks: A Systems Approach, Larry Peterson and Bruce Davie, Morgan Kaufmann, Fifth Edition, 2011.
- Introduction to Computer Networks and Cybersecurity, John Wu and J. David Irwin, CRC Press, 2013.
- Computer Networks, Andrew Tanenbaum and David Wetherall, Fifth Edition, Pearson, 2010.

Links to additional reading material will be available on the lecture notes page.

**Software:**

For the labs, we will be using several Unix-based network utility programs. The purpose of these programs and information on how to use them will be provided in the lab handouts. We will also use a packet sniffing tool called Wireshark , which has been widely deployed on CSE machines. In addition, we will also use ns-2 (http://www.isi.edu/nsnam/ns/) , a widely used network simulator for a few labs. Ns-2 is installed on the CSE lab machines. The simulator is written in C++. However, it uses OTcl (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OTcl) as its command and configuration interface. In the lab exercises, we will use scripts written in OTcl. We will provide some of the OTcl scripts for the lab exercises. You will be expected to run the scripts, make some changes in the scripts, and analyse certain performance metrics. You will not be required to write C++ code. Detailed resources for all tools used will be made available on the lab exercises page.

Programming assignment is expected to be developed in C, Java or Python. Students are assumed to have sufficient expertise in one of these programming languages. Links to network programming in C, Java and Python will be available under the assignment link of the course webpage. Sample code demonstrating a simple client/server application will be supplied as a starting point for students.

# Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback on this course, and on the effectiveness of lectures in this course, is obtained via electronic survey (MyExperience) at the end of each term. Student feedback is taken seriously, and continual improvements are made to the course based in part on this feedback. Students are strongly encouraged to let the lecturer in charge know of any problems as soon as they arise. Suggestions and criticisms will be listened to openly, and every action will be taken to correct any issue or improve the students' learning experience.

# Special Consideration

You can view the Special Consideration policy at the link here (https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration) .

UNSW handles special consideration requests centrally (in the Student Lifecycle division), so all special consideration requests must be submitted via the UNSW Special Consideration (https://iaro.online.unsw.edu.au/special_consideration/home.login) website. If your work in this course is affected by unforeseen adverse circumstances, you should apply for Special Consideration. Special consideration requests must be accompanied by documentation on how you have been affected, which will be verified by Student Lifecycle. Do not email the course convenor directly about special consideration. If your request is reasonable and your work has clearly been impacted, then

- for an assignment, you may be granted an extension
- for Mid Term Exam, you may be granted an opportunity to take the exam later
- for the Final Exam, you may be offered a Supplementary Exam

Note the use of the word "may". None of the above is guaranteed. It depends on you making a convincing case that the circumstances have clearly impacted your ability to work. Note that UNSW expects you to be available to sit Supplementary Exams, if required. If you are awarded a supplementary exam and do not attend, then your exam mark will be zero.

If you are registered with Disability Services, please forward your documentation to your Lecturer within the first two weeks of term.

Contacting LiC and Course Admin: No personal emails please.

Resource created 8 months ago (Wednesday 04 September 2019, 06:45:28 PM), last modified 8 months ago (Tuesday 10 September 2019, 03:45:54 PM).

## Comments

(/COMP3331/19T3/forums/search?forum_choice=resource/31889)

(/COMP3331/19T3/forums/resource/31889)



Stephen Fong (/users/z5191673) 5 months ago (Mon Dec 02 2019 22:53:04 GMT+1100 (Australian Eastern Daylight Time)), last modified 5 months ago (Mon Dec 02 2019 22:53:14 GMT+1100 (Australian Eastern Daylight Time))

Hi, where will my exam be held?

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wednesday | 04/12/2019 | 08:45 | 11:00 | COMP3331:Computer Networks&Applications | 1 | **CLASH: Alternative location. Please refer to notes above.** |

Edit Delete



Salil Kanhere (/users/z3116703) 5 months ago (Tue Dec 03 2019 09:13:41 GMT+1100 (Australian Eastern Daylight Time))

COMP3331 students (undergrads) are in Kensington Room, Randwick Racecourse

COMP9331 students (postgrads) are in Tyree Engineering Technology G15

Edit Delete

Matthew Burkher (/users/z5278686) 6 months ago (Fri Nov 08 2019 14:42:38 GMT+1100 (Australian Eastern Daylight Time))

Hi,

Now that the final exam schedule has been finalized, our final is 8:45 to 11:00 with no AM or PM. Can I assume this is in the morning rather than the evening?

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Salil Kanhere (/users/z3116703) 6 months ago (Fri Nov 08 2019 16:22:41 GMT+1100 (Australian Eastern Daylight Time)), last modified 6 months ago (Fri Nov 08 2019 16:23:25 GMT+1100 (Australian Eastern Daylight Time))

Yes !! The uni is not so cruel to schedule exams so late in the day !! EDIT: I presume they use a 24 hour format so afternoon exams would be 16:00 - 18:00, etc.

Edit Delete

Vidan Milovanovic (/users/z5235775) 7 months ago (Sat Sep 28 2019 16:49:28 GMT+1000 (Australian Eastern Standard Time))

Hi Salil,

Just a content request for the course outline page, where lectures are listed in a table per week - would it be possible to incorporate an additional column perhaps titled 'suggested reading content', containing the relevant sections per chapter from the course textbook?

That is,

Week 1 -> Ch 1.1 - 1.4
Week 2 -> Ch 2.1 - 2.3

and so on....

Thank you

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Salil Kanhere (/users/z3116703) 7 months ago (Sun Sep 29 2019 07:23:09 GMT+1000 (Australian Eastern Standard Time))

This info is on the first slide of each slide set. I think it is better to have it there as the schedule can change as we progress depending on how fast/slow I cover concepts.

Edit Delete

Greta Ritchard (/users/z5112965) 7 months ago (Thu Sep 19 2019 14:12:48 GMT+1000 (Australian Eastern Standard Time))

I am enrolled in the web stream for the lectures as I have a clash with another tutorial (with marked attendance) on Tuesdays from 9-11am, what do I do about the mid term exam?

Edit Delete

Salil Kanhere (/users/z3116703) 7 months ago (Thu Sep 19 2019 16:51:32 GMT+1000 (Australian Eastern Standard Time))

All students, including those enrolled in the web stream must attend the mid-term in person at the prescribed time. Please make prior arrangements with your other course. I am sure they will allow for an exception for 1 tutorial.

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