INFO 3229 – 001 & 090
Business Data Communications and Information Security
Fall 2015

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OFFICE HOURS: Tue & Thu 2:00pm – 3:30pm and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the current and potential impact of computer data communications technologies and information security on business operations and productivity. Topics include: designing, planning and implementing solutions in such areas as local area networks, networked applications, and information assurance.

Prerequisites: INFO 3130 with a grade of C or above.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The objective of this course is to provide a basic understanding of the technical and management aspects of business data communications and networking. It will include the study of business impact of data communications technologies on organizational operations and productivity. By the end of the course you will be able to:

- Explain how networks such as the Internet move messages from one computer to another through the different hardware and software components
- Design networks using a variety of LAN, backbone and WAN technologies and components
- Understand the risk of security breaches and suggest solutions with appropriate tools and techniques.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Additional notes and online resources will be posted on Moodle as needed.
GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams (3)</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments and Quizzes (5)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Presentation</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation/Attendance</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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Final grades will be based on the following scale.
A: 90 and above, B: 80-89, C: 70-79, D: 60-69, F: 59 and below.

EXAMS

Exam dates (Sep. 29, Nov. 3, & Dec. 8) are fixed unless there is an unexpected event such as university closing. You may be excused for missing one of the three exams and have an opportunity to take a make-up test if you provide legitimate and documented reasons. The format of make-up exams may differ from the format of the regularly scheduled exam. Permission must be obtained from the professor prior to the scheduled exam time.

Exams are **closed** book and notes when they are administered in class. The instructor will keep all exams. However, exam reviews are available during office hours or by appointment for 10 days after exam grades are posted. All exam grades will be posted on Moodle.

ASSIGNMENTS AND QUIZZES

Each student must develop his or her own solutions to the assigned homework. Students may not "work together" on homework assignments. Such collaboration constitutes cheating, unless it is a group assignment. A student may not use or copy (by any means) another's work (or portions of it) and represent it as his/her own.

To ensure that students stay on track with their learning goals for this class, the instructor will give short quizzes during the semester. These quizzes will focus on the current topic, assigned readings, and review questions. Quizzes are usually given at the beginning of a lecture. Students who arrive later than 10 minutes will not be allowed to take the quiz. There are no early quizzes or make-up quizzes under any circumstance.

Homework deadline is always at the beginning of the class when it is due unless specified by the instructions. In case of a late submission on the same day, 20% of the points earned from the submission will be deducted. After the due date, the late homework may be accepted, but with a 50% penalty. Once the grade is posted or a week has passed after due date, whichever comes first, you will receive a 0 for the late assignment.
GROUP PROJECT

Each student will form a group (four or five) for a research project related to data communications and information security. The purpose of the project is to provide an opportunity for you to extend your knowledge on fast-evolving data communication technology and various information security issues. Each group will submit a written report and have an oral presentation. More details about the group project will be posted on Moodle.

All members of the group are expected to contribute to the project. If a member of your group does not contribute, you must ask him/her to leave your group and notify me before October 30. I will assign him/her an individual project instead of the group project whose maximum grade will be a B.

WORKLOAD

Just as any courses require understanding of technical concepts, learning how networks work is challenging. Learning technical concepts is not something that you can put off until the night before the exam, and the knowledge is built only by developing familiarity with those concepts. Put in as much time as necessary in order to understand how networks operate and to be better prepared for the exams. I expect that you will spend 6 hours per week on average outside of class time for reading assignments, projects, and exams. The textbook and web materials will provide you with enough information about network technology, so I will be using the class time mostly to fill in any gaps that you experienced while reading the materials. Class participation is thus very important and will be counted toward your grade.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to attend all classes. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting and will be considered when making borderline grade decisions. Students with three or less unexcused absences will be better positioned for favorable outcomes in those borderline situations than students with more absences. Besides, there are a number of good reasons to attend all classes:

- some topics discussed in the classroom are not covered adequately in the textbook, thus the instructor will present alternative and better approaches.
- extra credit opportunities such as pop quizzes and homework assignments will be announced in class.
- historically, those who skip the class tend to make less than their target grades.
- the instructor refuses to answer questions due to absenteeism. A student that misses a class is responsible for obtaining any needed information (e.g., notes, announcements) from fellow students.
You must inform me ahead of time of your expected absence, tardiness, or early departure. Tardiness or early departure is highly disruptive and is strongly discouraged in my class.

**ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN CLASS**

Students are permitted to use computers or tablets during class for note-taking and other class-related work only, but this should be done without distracting other students and without distracting you from the topic of discussion. Those using computers during class for work not related to that class must leave the classroom for the remainder of the class period.

However, use of cellular phones, pagers, CD players, radios, and similar devices are prohibited in the classroom and laboratory facilities. Cellular phones MUST BE TURNED OFF/SILENCED DURING CLASS and students are strongly discouraged from checking their cell-phone messages when the class is in progress. Pagers must be set to vibrate, rather than beep. Use of instant messaging, email or other communication technologies during class time is prohibited. Calculators and computers are prohibited during examinations and quizzes, unless specifically allowed by the instructor.

Students violating the electronic devices policies will be marked for disruptive behavior and may be asked to leave the class. Their grade will also be affected accordingly.

**CLASS CONDUCT**

Disruptive behavior in class distracts from the ability of others to profit from their in-class experience. Such disruptive behavior includes arriving late, leaving early, cell-phone interruptions, checking e-mail, surfing the net during the class, spending class time working on assignments for other classes, side conversations between two or more students during lecture, unnecessary comments that add no value to class, and any activities that negatively impact the ability of other students to learn and/or listen in class. Such behavior will be considered rude and inappropriate and will not be tolerated.

I will take very seriously any distraction caused by violating the above policies. Any member of the class should feel free to let me know if any behavior of fellow student(s) is distracting her/his learning experience. Such complaints will be treated as confidential, but will help me to take appropriate action to provide a positive learning environment in the class.

Since it is my responsibility to provide an environment that is conducive to learning for everyone in the class, I will deduct all participation points from the grade of any student who chooses to repeatedly distract others or create other disruptions. In particularly egregious cases, I will have the student permanently removed from the class and deduct up to a maximum of 15% of the final grade. To attend or not to attend is your decision to make, but once you decide to attend my class, you should refrain from any disruptive behavior during the class.
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

THE UNC CHARLOTTE CODE OF STUDENT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY governs the responsibility of students to maintain integrity in academic work, defines violations of the standards, describes procedures for handling alleged violations of the standards, and lists the applicable penalties. The following is a list of prohibited conduct in that Code as violating these standards: A) Cheating; B) Fabrication and Falsification; C) Multiple Submission; D) Plagiarism; E) Abuse of Academic Materials; and F) Complicity in Academic Dishonesty. For more detail and clarification on these items and on academic integrity, students are strongly advised to read the current "UNCC undergraduate and graduate catalog."

GRADE APPEALS

If you believe that the grade you received on an assignment, exam or other graded course component was in error or unfair, you can appeal to the professor in writing within 10 calendar days of the receipt of your grade. The appeal should clearly state the reasons why you believe the grade to be unfair or the nature of the error. Overdue appeals will not be considered.

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY

The incomplete is not based solely on a student’s failure to complete work or as a means of raising his/her grade by doing additional work after the grade report time. An incomplete grade can be given when a student has a serious medical problem or other extenuating circumstance that legitimately prevents completion of required work by the due date. In any cases, the student's work to date should be passing, and the student should provide proper written proof (e.g., a doctor's note), in order to get an 'I' grade.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

If you have a disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please provide a letter of accommodation from the Office of Disability Services in the beginning of the semester. For more information regarding accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services at 704-687-4355 or stop by their office in 230 Fretwell.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The Instructor reserves the right to change the course contents and/or schedule. Up-to-date course schedule is available on Moodle. Important announcements, specific policies regarding exams, etc. are also available on Moodle. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any changes in the course schedule, course contents, and course policies by visiting Moodle regularly.
The Belk College of Business strives to create an inclusive academic climate in which the dignity of all individuals is respected and maintained. Therefore, we celebrate diversity that includes, but is not limited to ability/disability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status.