

**Texas A&M University Central Texas  
CISK 347-110 DATA COMMUNICATIONS  
ONLINE**

**Location: ONLINE**

**Instructor: Dr. Randy Brown**

**Office: FH 323-J**

**Phone: (254) 519- 5462**

**Preferred Classroom Communication Method: BlackBoard Messages**

**Email: [rwbrown@tamuct.edu](mailto:rwbrown@tamuct.edu)**

**COBA Department Main Phone Number: (254) 519-5437**

**COBA Department Main Email: [cobainfo@tamuct.edu](mailto:cobainfo@tamuct.edu)**

**COBA Department Main Fax#: (254) 501-5825**

**Office Hours:**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thurs</b>	<b>Fri</b>
FH 323J	16:00-18:00, and by appointment	By appointment	10:00-12:00, and by appointment	By Appointment	By Appointment
Virtual	By Appointment	By Appointment	By Appointment	By Appointment	By Appointment

**Mode of instruction and course access:**

This course is a 100% online course. TAMUCT Blackboard Learn System (<http://tamuct.blackboard.com>) will be our primary resource for the class information. You will use the Blackboard username and password communicated to you separately to logon to this system. The course syllabus, schedule, supplemental readings, class announcements, power point slides, learning modules, homework assignments, exams and other course related documents will be posted on blackboard. Each student is responsible for the posted material, and should check the blackboard at least weekly for updates. The course outline in this syllabus shows the basic schedule for the semester.

**Student-instructor interaction:**

Please send all course related correspondence to me using Blackboard messages. Please use TAMUCT email only when Blackboard is not available (or for non-class related issues). I check messages several times a day during the week and at least once during the weekends. I will respond within 24 hours and within 48 hours on Friday through Sunday. Please do not hesitate to stop by my office during the scheduled office hours or contact me via phone / blackboard email or TAMUCT email, if there are any personal problems or challenges that are hindering your regular progress in the course.

**UNILERT**

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University – Central Texas

UNILERT is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in UNILERT through their myCT email account. Connect at [www.TAMUCT.edu/UNILERT](http://www.TAMUCT.edu/UNILERT) to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in UNILERT, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

## COURSE INFORMATION

### 1.0 Course Overview and description:

A study of voice and data communications technologies, concepts, and applications, including communications terminology, hardware, software, protocols, and managerial issues in data and voice communications. Topics will include alternatives available in hardware, software, and transmission facilities, design integration, selection, and implementation of communications solutions. In addition, students will explore the current and future impact and directions of these technologies.

1.1 Prerequisite: CIS 103 or 300 or approval of the department head.

1.2 Students are expected to read this document, and submit all coursework as required.

### 2.0 Course Objective:

#### 2.1 Student Learning Outcomes

Successful completion of this course should enable the student to:

2.1.1 Define fundamental Network terms, and protocols

2.1.2 Describe the Application Layers and Protocols.

2.1.3 Demonstrate knowledge about careers in networking

2.1.4 Demonstrate knowledge of security as it applies to networks

2.1.5 Demonstrate an in depth knowledge about a range of network terms and concepts

### 3.0 Required Reading, Textbook(s), and Supplies:

3.1 Required Text: *Business Data Networks and Security*, 10<sup>th</sup> ed., Raymond Panko & Julia Panko ISBN 13: 9780133544015  
ISBN 10: 013354401x

Note: A student of this institution is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from a university-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook (or other formats of the text) may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

3.2 Access to a computer with a text editor and Web Browser

3.3 Students preferring to use their own computers are required to have products, data encodings, file names, system structure, and products equal to those provided in the computer lab and the server used in class.

3.4 **Current publications:** The campus library contains numerous books and periodicals relating to Computer Science. The student should take advantage of

this resource by visiting the library.

<http://www.tarleton.edu/centraltexas/departments/library/>.

- 3.5** Other materials provided may be provided by the instructor.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### 4.0 Course Requirements:

#### 4.1 Exams:

There will be one exam worth 300 points (30%). Makeup exams will be given ONLY when arrangements have been made PRIOR to the class meeting.

#### 4.2 Homework:

Homework will be assigned after each chapter and is intended to reinforce the concepts discussed in class. Each homework assignment will be worth 20 points, but only the top 10 will count (200 points total).

#### 4.3 Group Project:

Each Student will be assigned to a group required to design a communications system. More information about this project will be distributed by the end of the fourth week of class. Groups will be randomly assigned after the first class day. The group project will be worth 300 points (30%).

#### 4.4 Reading Assignments:

All assigned chapters will be used as basis for class and/or blackboard discussions. Study the assigned readings before each class.

#### 4.5 Participation/Discussion Questions:

As this is an online course, there is NO lecture or other face-to-face interaction. To simulate the class environment, there will be multiple discussion questions throughout the semester. You will be expected to participate by posting an initial post of your own and (usually) respond to at least four other student's posts (at a minimum). The discussion questions will be posted at the beginning of the week and you will have until the following Monday to complete. NOTE: There may be more than one question in some weeks.

Participation/discussion is worth 300 pts (30%) of your grade. If the quality of your postings is not sufficient, the points will not be earned. You are expected to contribute to the class discussions in meaningful ways. That means:

- 4.5.1 Contributing new and relevant information to the course discussion and from readings of the textbooks;
- 4.5.2 Commenting in a positive manner;
- 4.5.3 Building on the remarks of your fellow students – i.e. improving upon what someone else said;
- 4.5.4 Posing questions of your fellow students; and sharing quotes, websites, and other supplementary information. Demonstrating practical application of the week's key concepts from your professional/personal experience.
- 4.5.5 "Substantive" does not include "I agree," "Great point," or "You're wonderful" type postings. These types of postings are examples of positive "teaming" and are fine but not by themselves. They do not add depth or breadth to the discussion. A "substantive" initial posting should include:
  - Your thesis (main point)
  - Your supporting arguments
  - A reference to class or outside material to support your thesis
  - An example from your experiences to support your thesis.

- 4.6** Late Submissions: Homework Assignments will be considered late if submitted after the due date/time. A late penalty of 5% per DAY (including weekends!) will be applied. That means that NO submissions will be accepted if submitted more than 20 days after the due date. Any submissions AFTER 20 days will be considered lack of participation and will result in a lower participation score. In addition, discussions MUST be completed within the week during which the discussion is assigned (i.e. **late discussions will NOT be allowed**). **Late tests will NOT be accepted!**

NOTE: NO work will be accepted after 5/13/2015.

- 4.7** Other Notes about assignments:

- 4.7.1** All assignments (except .docx) will be zipped prior to submission to BlackBoard – any unzipped assignments (except .docx) will not be accepted.
- 4.7.2** If there are multiple parts, submit all parts in a SINGLE zip file. I would suggest you create a folder for each assignment, then you can zip that entire folder at once...
- 4.7.3** Make sure all programs are labelled in a logical manner that makes it easy for me to figure out which program is which.
- 4.7.4** All assignments will be posted in BB with a value of 100 points, regardless of how many “points” they actually count toward your final grade. Therefore, **BlackBoard grades are NOT representative of your actual grade!**

## 5.0 Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

Required Activity	Number	Points	Total
Exam	1	300	300
Group Project	1	300	300
Homework	10	20	200
Participation/Discussion		200	200
Total			1000

Range	Letter Grade
1000-900	A
890-800	B
790-700	C
690-600	D
599-0	F

## 6.0 Posting of Grades:

All student grades will be posted on the Blackboard Grade book and students should monitor their grading status through this tool. Grades for weekly assignments, discussions, quizzes and exams *should* be posted (no guarantees) within 1 week following the due date.

## 7.0 Any instructor policies related to absence, grading, etc

### 7.1 Grading.

Grades are not given; the student earns them. Rubrics are employed whenever possible to assure that the grading of an individual assignment is consistent. There are always disagreements about the grade given to a work product and a student's expectation; students are encouraged to make sound well-reasoned arguments as to why they should receive more points. Arguments that are not well-reasoned include:

1. I need a better grade because I am on probation.
2. I come from a good family.
3. I will be deported.
4. I will lose my scholarship.
5. I think it is an A paper.

**7.2 Attendance:**

Class attendance is required as described in section 4.4, above.

**7.2.1** Any student missing more than 10% (3) of classes will receive NO credit for Attendance/Participation.

**7.2.2** 3 tardies count as one absence. You are tardy if you come in after I take attendance, no matter how I take attendance (roll-call, attendance quiz, etc.)

**7.3 Students with Disabilities:**

If you have a disability requiring special accommodations, you must submit appropriate documentation from the TAMU-CT Disability Support Coordinator by the end of the first week of class or ASAP. Documentation submitted “after the fact” will NOT be accepted.

**8.0 Instructor’s Personal Statement:**

**8.1** Instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus during the course of the semester for the benefit of the students.

**8.2** Instructor reserves the right to supplement the material presented in the text with addition material that may benefit the students by either providing additional information or a different point of view.

**8.3** Instructor expects that the students will act in a curious and professional manner in all interactions with other students and the instructor.

**8.4** Instructor reserves the right to modify grading rubrics. Changes to grading rubrics are only made to current and/or future assignments.

**8.5** Any changes made will be announced in class and posted on BlackBoard.

**COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR  
(Tentative – Subject to Change)**

Week	Week of:	Chapter(s)	Assignment(s) Due!
1	20-Jan	Syllabus/Introductions	
2	26-Jan	Chapter 1	Introduction Discussion, Syllabus Acknowledgement
3	2-Feb	Chapter 2	Week 2 Discussions & Chapter 1 Homework/Cases
	<b>4-Feb</b>	<b>Information Only</b>	<b>Last day to drop with no record</b>
4	9-Feb	Chapter 3	Week 3 Discussions & Chapter 2 Homework/Cases
5	16-Feb	Chapter 4	Week 4 Discussions & Chapter 3 Homework/Cases
6	23-Feb	Chapter 5	Week 5 Discussions & Chapter 4 Homework/Cases
7	2-Mar	Chapter 6	Week 6 Discussions & Chapter 5 Homework/Cases
8	9-Mar	Special Topic TBD	Week 7 Discussions & Chapter 6 Homework/Cases
	<b>16-Mar</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>	
9	23-Mar	Chapter 7	Week 8 Discussions
10	30-Mar	Chapter 8	Week 9 Discussions & Chapter 7 Homework/Cases
	<b>3-Apr</b>	<b>Information Only</b>	<b>Last day to drop with "Q" or withdraw with "W"</b>
11	6-Apr	Chapter 9	Week 10 Discussions & Chapter 8 Homework/Cases
12	13-Apr	Chapter 10	Week 11 Discussions & Chapter 9 Homework/Cases
13	20-Apr	Chapter 11	Week 12 Discussions & Chapter 10 Homework/Cases
14	27-Apr	Special Topic TBD	Week 13 Discussions & Chapter 11 Homework/Cases
15	4-May	Final Exam Posted	Week 14 Discussions
16	11-May		Final Exam Due

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

**Drop Policy.** If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must go to the Records Office and ask for the necessary paperwork. Professors **cannot** drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The record's office will provide a deadline for which the form must be returned, completed and signed. Once you return the signed form to the records office and wait 24 hours, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. Should you still be enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the records office immediately? You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course.

**Academic Integrity.** Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

**Disability Support and Access Services.** At Texas A&M University – Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to an education that is barrier-free. The Office of Disability Support and Access is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability enjoy equal access to the University's programs, services and activities. Some aspects of this course or the way the course is taught may present barriers to learning due to a disability. If you have or believe you have a disability and wish to self-identify, you can do so by providing documentation to the Disability Support Coordinator at (254) 501-5831 in Warrior Hall, Suite 212. For more information, please visit their webpage at [www.tamuct/disabilitysupport](http://www.tamuct/disabilitysupport). Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such. NOTE: Such documentation must be presented to the instructor by the end of the first week of class or ASAP after identifying a difficulty. Any documentation submitted "after the fact" will not be accepted.

**Tutoring.** Tutoring is available to all TAMUCT students, both on-campus and online. Subjects tutored include Accounting, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Writing, and APA formatting. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Room 111. Visit [www.ct.tamus.edu/AcademicSupport](http://www.ct.tamus.edu/AcademicSupport) and click "Tutoring Support" for tutor schedules and contact information. If you have questions, need to schedule a tutoring session, or if you are interested in becoming a tutor, contact Academic Support Programs at 254-501-5830/5836 or by emailing [Cecilia.morales@ct.tamus.edu](mailto:Cecilia.morales@ct.tamus.edu)



Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables TAMUCT students to log-in and receive FREE online tutoring and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in Mathematics, Writing, Career Writing, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Spanish, Calculus, and Statistics. To access Tutor.com, log into your Blackboard account and click "Online Tutoring."

**University Library.** The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 72,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at TAMUCT are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On-campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available twenty-four hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the TAMUCT main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our homepage:

<http://www.tamuct.edu/departments/library/index.php>

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

### Technology Requirements:

This course will use the TAMUCT Blackboard Learn learning management system.

Lagon to <https://tamuct.blackboard.com> to access the course.

Username: Your MyCT username

(xx123 or everything before the "@" in your MyCT e-mail address)

Initial password: Your MyCT password

For this course, you will need reliable and frequent access to a computer and to the Internet. You will also need a headset with a microphone or speakers and a microphone to be able to listen to online resources and conduct other activities in the course. If you do not have frequent and reliable access to a computer with Internet connection, please consider dropping this course or contact me at [rwbrown@tamuct.edu](mailto:rwbrown@tamuct.edu) to discuss your situation.

Blackboard supports the most common operating systems:

PC: Windows 8, Windows 7, Windows Vista

Mac: Mac OS X 10.9 (Mavericks), 10.8 (Mountain Lion), and 10.7 (Lion)

NOTE: Computers using **Windows XP, Windows 8 RT and OS X 10.6 or lower are NO longer supported!**

Check browser and computer compatibility by following the “Browser Check” link on the TAMUCT Blackboard logon page. (<http://tamuct.blackboard.com>) This is a CRITICAL step as these settings are important for when you take an exam or submit an assignment.

Upon logging on to Blackboard Learn, you will see a link to Blackboard Student Orientation under My Courses tab. Click on that link and study the materials in this orientation course. The new Blackboard is a brand-new interface and you will have to come up to speed with it really quickly. This orientation course will help you get there. There is also a link to Blackboard Help from inside the course on the left-hand menu bar. The first week of the course includes activities and assignments that will help you get up to speed with navigation, sending and receiving messages and discussion posts, and submitting an assignment. Your ability to function within the Blackboard system will facilitate your success in this course.

*Technology issues are not an excuse for missing a course requirement – make sure your computer is configured correctly and address issues well in advance of deadlines.*

**Technology Support.** For technology issues, students should contact Help Desk Central.

24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

Email: [helpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu)

Phone: (254) 519-5466

Web Chat: <http://hdc.tamu.edu>

*When calling for support please let your support technician know you are a TAMUCT student.*

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

*Technology issues are not an excuse for missing a course requirement – make sure your computer is configured correctly and address issues well in advance of deadlines.*

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