

**CIS 5304-110, CRN 81086, Data Communications for Managers  
Fall 2021  
Texas A&M University-Central Texas**

**Instructor:** Dinesh Reddy, Ph.D.

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**Email:** [dreddy@tamuct.edu](mailto:dreddy@tamuct.edu) (I prefer tamuct email)

**Office Hours:** TR 3-6 pm virtual (emails, calls, or video desktop sharing) (or by appointment)

**Course Dates, Modality, and Location**

Aug 23 – Dec 10. This is a classroom blended instructional method course. This course uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>]. I use Canvas to post course content, assignments, quizzes, exams, and to communicate any other announcements with the class. So please check Canvas regularly (on a daily basis) for updates.

**Student-instructor interaction:**

You may use the Canvas “inbox” feature or email me with your questions anytime as you would by attending the class and coming into my office. Your questions will be answered within 24 hours on weekdays and within 48 hours on weekends and holidays.

**WARRIOR SHIELD**

**Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas**

Warrior Shield 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 Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.

Connect to Warrior Shield by [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login) [<https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login>] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

**Fall 2021 Return to Campus Plan.** For the most recent campus information regarding COVID-19 see the Texas A&M University-Central Texas [Fall 2021 Return to Campus Plan](https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/>]

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Course Overview and description:**

Examine the management and utilization of data communication technologies including technical components, configurations, applications, protocols, legal issues, software and management issues, Local Area Network (LAN) technologies, and security issues. Upon completion of this course, the students will be able to evaluate, select, and implement different data network options.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Students taking this course will be able to:

1. Illustrate network behavior and principles employed in an organization and the underlying operation of the communication networks.
2. Demonstrate the details of data and signals in Computer Networking and analyze the correct operation of various protocols
3. Understand the basic principles of Internet protocols and various internet services.

**Required Reading and Textbook(s):**

Data Communications & Computer Networks: A Business User's Approach: 8th edition.

Author: Curt M. White.

ISBN: 9781305116634      Publisher: Cengage Learning

**Supplemental (Optional) Reading**

Business Data Communications and Networking: 11<sup>th</sup> Ed (Fitzgerald, Dennis, Durcikova)

*Additional required readings and optional readings will be posted on Canvas.*

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS****Exams**

There will be three exams (two mid-terms and one final). Each exam is worth 100 points. Exams can be conducted either paper-based or on canvas. Exams will be based on the textbook, readings, and class discussions. It is assumed that you will read the assigned chapters and readings in advance. Make up exams are not typically given. The only acceptable excuses for missing an exam are circumstances clearly outside your control, such as illness, death in family, etc. If you miss an exam, notify me as soon as possible. I may require documentation of the circumstances.

**Lab work**

Labs are designed for students to have hands on experiences on the topics covered in this course. Instructions on what to submit for each lab will be posted on Canvas. You will be asked to prepare a lab report with your observations. All lab reports must be submitted before the end of the day (11:59 PM) on the due date mentioned in the course schedule. Late submissions will not be accepted for full points and will attract 10% deduction for each day that it is late. Each lab work is worth 30 points.

**Assignments**

There will be five assignments during the semester (30 points each). Assignments stress critical thinking by applying concepts learned in this course. Occasionally, some individual outside

research will also be required. Assignments must be submitted before the end of the day (11:59 PM) on the due date mentioned in the course schedule. Late submissions will not be accepted for full points and will attract 10% deduction for each day that it is late.

### Quizzes

There will be ten quizzes (true/false) that are designed to test the general understanding of the topics covered in the course. The quizzes can be conducted in-class either paper-based or on canvas. Late submissions will not be accepted. Each quiz is worth 10 points.

### Research Paper and Presentation

Each student will be required to write a research paper and present their research in class. In this research paper, students will select and explore a current topic/trend in Networking, based on a chosen industry. More details on the research paper topic proposals and grading rubrics (used for assessing the presentations) will be announced in class and uploaded on Canvas. The paper must be submitted before the end of the day (11:59 PM) on the due date mentioned in the course schedule. Late submissions for research paper will not be accepted for full points and will attract 10% deduction for each day that it is late. Late presentations will not be scheduled. Completed research paper is worth 100 points (topic proposal + draft version + final version). Presentation of your research is worth 100 points.

### Grading Criteria:

Your semester grade will be based on the following criteria:

Course Requirement	Points	Weightage
Two Mid-Term Exams (100 points each)	200	20%
Final Exam	100	10%
Five Labs (40 points each)	200	20%
Five Assignments (40 points each)	200	20%
Ten Quizzes (10 points each)	100	10%
Research Paper Proposal	25	2.5%
Research Paper Draft	25	2.5%
Research Paper Final Version	50	5%
Research Paper Presentation	100	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>100%</b>

Final letter grade distribution will be as per the following scale:

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Point Range</b>
<b>A</b>	900 and above
<b>B</b>	800-899
<b>C</b>	700-799
<b>D</b>	600-699
<b>F</b>	599 and below

### **Posting of Grades**

All students' grade will be posted on the Canvas Grade book, and students can monitor their progress on Canvas grade book. Students can expect to see their grades within two weeks of the closing of class tests, exams, and assignments. Students are expected to visit Canvas course webpage regularly to get any update regarding this course.

## COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

**Course Schedule\* \*\*** (\* This schedule provides a general plan. Deviations may be necessary)  
(\*\* Readings for each week will be posted on Canvas)

Week	Date	Readings	Due
1	08/24	Syllabus, Chapter 1 – Introduction to Computer Networks	Quiz 1
2	08/31	Chapter 2 - Fundamentals of Data and Signals	Quiz 2, Lab 1
3	09/07	Chapter 3 – Conducted and Wireless Media	Quiz 3, Assignment 1
4	09/14	Chapter 4 - Making Connections	Quiz 4, Lab 2 Research Paper Proposal
5	09/21	<b>Mid-Term Exam 1</b>	<b>Exam 1</b>
6	09/28	Chapter 5 - Multiplexing and Compression	Quiz 5, Assignment 2
7	10/05	Chapter 6 – Data Packet Error Detection and Correction	Quiz 6, Lab 3
8	10/12	Chapter 7 - Local Area Networks: Part 1	Quiz 7, Assignment 3
9	10/19	Chapter 8 - Local Area Networks: Part 2	Quiz 8, Lab 4 Research Paper Draft
10	10/26	<b>Mid-Term Exam 2</b>	<b>Exam 2</b>
11	11/02	Chapter 9 – Introduction to MAN and WAN	Quiz 9, Assignment 4
12	11/09	Chapter 10 - The Internet	Quiz 10, Lab 5
13	11/16	Chapter 11 – Voice and Data Delivery Networks	Assignment 5
14	11/23	Ch 12 – Network Security, Research Paper Presentations	Research Paper Final
15	11/30	Research Paper Presentations	
16	12/07	<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>

## Important University Dates:

August 23, 2021	Add, Drop, and Late Registration Begins for 16- and First 8-week Classes \$25 Fee assessed for late registrants
August 23, 2021	Classes Begin for Fall Semester
August 25, 2021	Deadline for Add, Drop, and Late Registration for 16- and First 8-Week Classes
August 30, 2021	Deadline to Drop First 8-week Classes with No Record
September 6, 2021	Labor Day (University open and classes will be held)
September 7, 2021	Deadline to drop 16-week Classes with No Record
October 4, 2021	Deadline for Teacher Education Program Applications
October 1, 2021	Deadline to Drop First 8-week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)
October 15, 2021	Deadline for Clinical Teaching/Practicum Applications
October 15, 2021	Classes End for First 8-week Session
October 15, 2021	Deadline to Withdraw from University for First 8-Week Classes (WF)
October 18, 2021	Add, Drop, and Late Registration Begins for Second 8-Week Classes \$25 Fee assessed for late registrants
October 18, 2021	Classes Begin for Second 8-Week Session
October 18, 2021	Class Schedule Published for Spring Semester
October 19, 2021	Deadline for Faculty Submission of First 8-Week Class Final Grades (due by 3pm)
October 20, 2021	Deadline for Add, Drop, and Late Registration for Second 8-Week Classes
October 25, 2021	Deadline to Drop Second 8-Week Classes with No Record
October 19, 2021	Deadline for Graduation Application for Fall Ceremony Participation
November 1, 2021	Deadline for GRE/GMAT Scores to Graduate School Office
November 1, 2021	Registration Opens for Spring Semester
November 5, 2021	Deadline to Drop 16-Week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)
November 11, 2021	Veteran's Day (University Closed)
November 20, 2021	Deadline for Final Committee-Edited Theses Fall Semester with Committee Approval Signatures to Graduate School Office
November 25-26, 2021	Thanksgiving (University Closed)
November 29, 2021	Deadline to Drop Second 8-Week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)
December 10, 2021	Deadline to Withdraw from University for 16- and Second 8-Week Classes
December 10, 2021	Fall Semester Ends
December 10, 2021	Deadline for Applications for Tuition Rebate for Fall Graduation (5pm)
December 10, 2021	Deadline for Fall Degree Conferral Applications to the Registrar's Office \$20 Late Application Fee
December 10, 2021	Fall Commencement Ceremony Bell County Expo 7 pm

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

### Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system.

We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

### **Canvas Support**

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

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

### **Online Proctored Testing**

A&M-Central Texas uses Proctorio for online identity verification and proctored testing. This service is provided at no direct cost to students. If the course requires identity verification or proctored testing, the technology requirements are: Any computer meeting the minimum computing requirements, plus web camera, speaker, and microphone (or headset). Proctorio also requires the Chrome web browser with their custom plug in.

### **Other Technology Support**

For log-in problems, 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): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

*Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.*

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## **UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES**

### **Drop Policy**

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the [Drop Request](#) Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

[<https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/casAuthentication.ashx?InstID=eaed95b9-f2be-45f3-a37d-46928168bc10&targetUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2Fsubmit%2FForm%2Fstart%2F53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612>].

Faculty cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar’s Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit the completed form to the Registrar’s Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar’s Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will

receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

### **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. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html), [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0), [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout\_id=0].

### **Academic Accommodations**

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 a barrier-free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations, please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information, please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717) Canvas page (log-in required) [https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717]

### **Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf) online, please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.



## **Tutoring**

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, on a remote online basis. Visit the Academic Support Community in Canvas to view schedules and contact information. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, success coaching, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 501-5836, visit the Office of Student Success at 212F Warrior Hall, or by emailing [studentsuccess@tamuct.edu](mailto:studentsuccess@tamuct.edu).

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

## **University Writing Center**

University Writing Center: Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (A&M–Central Texas) is a free service open to all A&M–Central Texas students. For the Fall 2021 semester, the hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday in Warrior Hall 416 (with online tutoring available every hour as well) with satellite hours available online only Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via WOnline at <https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu) if you have any questions about the UWC, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor by making an appointment via WOnline at <https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu) if you have any questions about the UWC, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor.

## **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 400,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 96,000 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 A&M-Central Texas 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 24 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 virtually through WebEx, Microsoft Teams 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 A&M-Central Texas 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 [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

## **OPTIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS**

### **A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas**

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Wellness and Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html].

### **Behavioral Intervention**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern

shows you care. You can complete the [referral](#) online [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout\_id=2].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](#) website for more information [https://www.tamuct.edu/bit]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5800.

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### **Copyright Notice**

Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author(s). Reproduction of course material is prohibited without consent by the author and/or course instructor. Violation of copyright is against the law and Texas A&M University-Central Texas' Code of Academic Honesty. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

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