

Syllabus: IS 656: Communications and Network Technologies

Communications & Network Technologies
Department of Information Systems | College of Information Technology
and Engineering
Fall 2007
Dr. Patricia Y. Logan

This course begins on August 18, 2007 and ends on December 6, 2007.

Please note that all times are Eastern.

Please see the [University Academic Calendar](#) for course withdrawal dates.

Office

Office Hours:
Office: GC 326
Phone: (304) 746-1951
Email: loganp@marshall.edu
Office hrs: On-line daily from 8 am to 5 pm (Check for **Online Now** for chat)

Available by appt or contact me by MU or Vista email

About me:

I have taught in information systems and computer science a variety of subjects including software engineering, programming languages, networks, security, and computer forensics. My specialization is in information security, computer forensics and networks. I have worked as a software developer, team lead, and manager in the banking and insurance industries. I am passionate about the opportunities available in IS/CS and enjoy what I do! I'm always willing to give career advice or review a resume.

Course Materials and Cost

Book: [Network Management Fundamentals](#) by Alexander Clemm

Cisco Press

- You are encouraged to subscribe to Safari Online <http://safari.oreilly.com/> in order to use this book electronically. Safari offers this book and thousands more on computer-related subjects that can be downloaded and read online. Current new

subscribers can receive 1 month free and can order up to 10 computer books a month for “check out” for \$19.99 per month. Larger numbers of books can be ordered for a larger monthly fee. You can subscribe to the service for only the length of the class and cancel when the course (or your reading) ends. You must have a credit card in order to use this service.

The books can be ordered online at [The Marshall University Bookstore](#) or at any other book seller of your choice for approximately \$70.

MS Project and MS Visio (available on campus in CITE or at http://msdn03.e-academy.com/marshall_iteng)

MS PowerPoint or viewer for slide sets.

Technical Requirements

- For minimum hardware/software requirements please see: <http://www.marshall.edu/muonline/hardwaresoftwarecheck.asp>
- Be sure to run the free web browser tune-up: <http://www.marshall.edu/muonline/support/tuneup.asp>
- If you have technical problems, please go to the Help Desk: <http://www.marshall.edu/muonline/technicalfaq.asp>
- **HELP DESK PHONE NUMBERS:**
(304) 696-3200 (Huntington, WV)
(304) 746-1969 (Charleston, WV)
(877) 689-8638 (Toll free)

Course Details

Description from University Catalogue:

This course is designed to provide the analytical skills and knowledge to manage a complex network and infrastructure. It is **not** meant to be a course in network fundamentals. The course focuses are higher-level management issues that impact the delivery of data. Students should have a basic understanding of how networks function and the meaning of common network terminology. The delivery mode of the course is videolink and online.

Prerequisites:

Pre-requisite: IS 622, or TM 660, or permission of the instructor.

Objectives:

Upon the completion of the course students will be able to:

1. Create and evaluate a network design

2. Evaluate competing vendor proposals
3. Identify the major issues in network management
4. Evaluate requirements for network hardware and software
5. Describe the planning process for network enhancements
6. Use MS Project and MS Visio tools
7. Write a proposal in response to an RFP
8. Create and evaluate a network design
9. Evaluate competing vendor proposals
10. Identify the major issues in network management
11. Evaluate requirements for network hardware and software
12. Describe the planning process for network enhancements
13. Use MS Project and MS Visio tools
14. Write a proposal in response to an RFP

Course Grading

Please note that the grading scale is **not** traditional. Excellent work must be superior in quality and content and the student must be an active classroom, on-line and team participant to earn an “A” grade. The grade of “B” indicates acceptable work with deficiencies in content, quality, or class/on-line participation. Less than a “B” grade is not an acceptable graduate level rating and may place the student on academic probation. A grade lower than “B” in a graduate level class indicates severe deficiencies in content, quality or class participation. An incomplete will not be given unless a documented emergency exists at the end of the semester that prevents the completion of the class. An Incomplete will be given only when all assignments have been turned in and received a passing grade up to the point of the request for the incomplete. The work not completed must have an agreed-upon due date for completion.

Grade	Per Cent Earned
A	90 - 100
B	82 – 89
C	75 - 81
D	65 – 74
E	< 64

Activities	Points
Discussion	300
Assignments	100
Project	100
Quizzes	200
Total	700

The standard for written and oral presentations will reflect acceptable business practices. APA style is preferred for formal papers in this course. APA style guides are available online and in the bookstore. Sloppy or incomplete work will be penalized. Acceptable grammar and word use are required. No late projects are accepted.

Course Schedule

The course is divided into **4 units** corresponding to the 4 parts of the textbook. Each unit is approximately **4 weeks in length**. Units will become available as the course progresses. See the **Home Page** for a schedule of events

Exams and Quizzes

Taken with the *Assessments Tool*. There are no formal exams in this course but there will be quizzes at the end of each unit available online that will cover the content from the readings, lecture, and online discussion. Each quiz is taken online and will be worth 50 pts. The quizzes may use True/False, multiple choice, or short essay. All quizzes are open source. You may consult written references but the work submitted must be your own. Each quiz will be available for one week, only (from Sunday to Sunday) beginning on the Sunday of the start of the new unit. If you fail to take a quiz a zero grade is recorded. Pay careful attention to the end date and time as the quiz will no longer be available past this date. In the event of a large-scale outage in the area in which you live, the time will be extended.

Assignments

Submitted via the *Assignments Tool*. There will be 5 independent assignments that involve network design and case analysis. These will be worth 20 points each. A capstone project will be team-based and include a proposal as a response to a company's need for a network design plan. You will work with a team to complete the project and it is worth 100 points.

Late work is not accepted via email. Use Outlook to send yourself an

assignment/quiz reminder so that you do not forget.

Discussions

Discussions take place with the *Discussions Tool*.

The on-line discussion component allows us to extend our in-class discussion. The instructor will provide students with an introduction to using Vista. There are 15 graded discussions for each week of the course with the first discussion (un-graded) that will serve as practice and a way to get to know each other. The course requirement is to post a response to each thread (discussion topic) at **least 3 times per week**. Discussions run from Monday to Sunday each week except when there are breaks. On-line discussions will be graded according to the following rubric: Each discussion is graded on number of posts and quality of the posts. No participation earns a zero and full participation earns 8 pts with partial contributions earning between 1 and 8 pts depending on the number of posts. The quality of your contributions will be graded on whether your discussions includes analysis of the question, extends the topic's discussion, includes references to the textbook reading for reinforcement of your viewpoint and includes outside sources. A series of quality posts that exceed the minimum number (3) for each discussion can earn up to 12 pts with fewer posts and lesser contributions earning between 1 and 12 pts. No posts will earn a zero. Simple responses are not discouraged but they do not count for the quality component of the grade. The rubric below will be used to assign quality points.

High
Your contributions to each Topic indicate your mastery of the materials assigned. Your responses might integrate multiple views and/or show value as a seed for reflection for other participants' responses to the thread. You provide evidence that you are reading the assigned materials and other student postings and are responding accordingly, bringing out interesting interpretations. You know the facts and are able to analyze them and handle conceptual ideas.
Medium
Your responses build on the ideas of another participant (or more) and dig deeper into assignment questions or issues. When you make intelligent posts during the week, including some good critique of the course material, then you have demonstrated you have an understanding of the material, are reading posts of your colleagues, and are contributing to the class. Your posts demonstrate confidence with the materials.

but may be just a bit off target in one area or another.

Low

You have meaningful interaction with other participants' postings. Posts that state "I agree" or "I disagree" include an explanation of what is disagreed or agreed upon and why, or introduce an argument that adds to the discussion. However, you may have rambling, lengthy posts that show no sign of having been re-read and refined before posting, and your writing suffers lack of clarity and comprehension.

Unsatisfactory

You will receive little credit in the week's discussion by just showing up and making trivial comments, without adding any new thought to the discussion. At the low end of the spectrum, no participation gets a "0." If you are not in the discussion, you do not earn any points.

The content of the online discussion will be used for quizzes so reading posts throughout the week will prepare you to do well on the unit quiz.

On-Campus Requirements

There is absolutely no requirement that you come to campus. You can communicate with me via the course *Mail* tool or the *Who's Online* tool.

Course Policies

Teams:

The reality of working in IT is that you will be doing projects as a member of a team. In many cases projects will be accomplished with team members in other locations or even geographically distant locations. There is no requirement to be physically present to do the team project. The tools of email, phone, chat, and fax can all be used to communicate between team members. Teams for the final project will be formed by the instructor. Each team is responsible for learning the material and performing the required work. The work should be divided between the students and reflect a joint effort. If a team member stops contributing, it is obligatory to inform the instructor.

A Note on Plagiarism:

All work submitted under your name is assumed to be done by you. If it is discovered that the work submitted by you or your group was written by another or if material is copied without proper attribution, the instructor

will record an E grade for the course. Cutting and pasting from web sites is considered plagiarism unless attribution is given. Entire pages of content cannot be attributed to someone else and you still receive credit for doing original work. Be aware that cutting and pasting is detectable forensically.

Resources

Me: Don't hesitate to contact me directly with questions or concerns. You can reach me through the VISTA *Mail* Tool or if necessary by phone at (304) 746-1951. Please don't let your questions hang out there and simmer. If you are not sure about something the best thing to do is to ask about it right away! Something that may seem obvious to me may not be obvious to you at all!

Support Services

Marshall University offers a variety of support services to students enrolled in online courses:

- [Tutoring Center Online](#)
- [Writing Center Online](#)
- [Libraries](#)
- [Textbook Service](#)
- [Disabled Student Services](#)
- [Campus Resources](#)
- [Technical Help](#)
- [VISTA Help](#)

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