

CSCE 3530 Section 401 - Introduction to Computer Networks (Summer 2026 10W)

**Course Syllabus:**

**Instructor Information**

**Name: Dr. Ali Zarafshani (he/him)**

**Office Location: E245L (by appointment only), Discovery Park**

**Office Hours: 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM Thu**

CSCE 3530 Section 401 - Introduction to Computer Networks (Summer 2026 10W)

[Create Meeting]

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Topic: CSCE 3530 Section 401 - Introduction to Computer Networks (Summer 2026 10W)

Host: Ali Zarafshani

Time: May 21, 2026 1:30 PM, Central Time (US and Canada)

Every 10 weeks on Thu, 10 occurrence(s):

2026-05-21 13:30:00

2026-07-30 13:30:00

2026-10-08 13:30:00

2026-12-17 13:30:00

2027-02-25 13:30:00

2027-05-06 13:30:00

2027-07-15 13:30:00

2027-09-23 13:30:00

2027-12-02 13:30:00

2028-02-10 13:30:00

Join URL:

**Lecture time: Online via the Internet**

**Faculty Email: [Ali.Zarafshani@UNT.edu](mailto:Ali.Zarafshani@UNT.edu)**

**Classroom and Time: Online via the Internet**

**The preferred contact method is directly through UNT email - you must allow 2-3 business days for us to research what is happening and reply to you. If you cannot contact me or a TA within 24-48 hours, email me directly at [Ali.Zarafshani@UNT.edu](mailto:Ali.Zarafshani@UNT.edu)**

If you email a TA or me through Microsoft, make sure you are using the correct email address through the UNT email system.

**DO NOT SEND ASSIGNMENTS TO MICROSOFT EMAIL ADDRESSES;** these must be turned into CANVAS. These must be turned into the appropriate turn-in locations. You are responsible for what you turn into the assignment folder. If you doubt you turned in the correct paper/project/assignment, it is your responsibility to check it. We can only grade what you turn in. We are not responsible for chasing you down to let you know you turned in something different from what is expected. If you doubt the assignment before you turn it in, we are happy to discuss.

**Grader(s)**

**TA: CSCE 35300 - Introduction to Computer Networks: Yan Qiao**

- **Email:** [YanQiao1@my.unt.edu](mailto:YanQiao1@my.unt.edu)
- **Office Hours:**
  - **Tue 1:00 -3:00 PM**
  - **Wed 1:00 - 3:00 PM**
  - **Thu 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM**
- **Office Location:** Zoom Link will be provided

### **Course Description, Structure, and Objectives**

Introduction to data communications: asynchronous, synchronous, networks, and current technology.

**Course Description:** This course provides an introduction to computer networking and data communications, including asynchronous and synchronous communication methods, network architectures, Internet protocols, and current networking technologies. Students will explore how computers communicate over networks, the design and operation of modern communication systems, and the fundamentals of network programming. Topics include application-layer protocols, routing and forwarding mechanisms, network architectures, and the principles underlying Internet communication.

**Course Structure:** The course is organized into weekly modules consisting of lectures, readings, discussions, hands-on activities, and assignments. Students will engage with

both theoretical concepts and practical networking applications through Lab activity exercises, protocol analysis, and network-related problem-solving. The course will cover foundational networking concepts and gradually progress toward more advanced topics such as routing, forwarding, and application protocols. Assessments may include quizzes, Wireshark lab assignments, exams, and projects, using a simulation tool.

### **Course Outcomes:**

**Course outcomes are measurable achievements to be accomplished by the completion of a course. These outcomes are evaluated as part of our ABET accreditation process.**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the fundamental concepts of computer networks and data communications.
2. Describe the role of computers and communication systems in modern networking environments.
3. Understand Internet communication protocols and their functions across different network layers.
4. Analyze different network architectures and communication models.
5. Develop basic network applications and understand socket communication principles.
6. Identify and explain the role of common application-layer protocols.
7. Understand routing and forwarding concepts used in modern networks.
8. Evaluate current networking technologies and their applications in real-world environments.

### **Prerequisites and Co-requisites**

Prerequisite(s): CSCE 3600

### **Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses**

#### **Federal Regulation**

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the [Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website](#) [Links to an](#)

[external site](#).. The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

The paragraph reads: (G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An online or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission, including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no online or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

### **University of North Texas Compliance**

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

1. Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
2. Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email [internationaladvising@unt.edu](mailto:internationaladvising@unt.edu)) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

### **Student Verification**

UNT takes measures to protect the integrity of educational credentials awarded to students enrolled in distance education courses by verifying student identity, protecting

student privacy, and notifying students of any special meeting times/locations or additional charges associated with student identity verification in distance education courses.

See [UNT Policy 07-002 Student Identity Verification, Privacy, and Notification and Distance Education Courses](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002>).

### **Use of Student Work**

A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g., software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) he or she creates within a class, and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student's permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

- The work is used only once.
- The work is not used in its entirety.
- Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
- The student is not identified.
- The work is identified as student work.

If the use of the work does not meet all of the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student's written permission.

Download the UNT System Permission, Waiver, and Release Form

### **Transmission and Recording of Student Images in Electronically Delivered Courses**

1. No permission is needed from a student for his or her image or voice to be transmitted live via video conference or streaming media, but all students should be informed when courses are to be conducted using either method of delivery.
2. In the event an instructor records student presentations, he or she must obtain permission from the student using a signed release in order to use the recording for future classes in accordance with the Use of Student-Created Work guidelines above.
3. Instructors who video-record their class lectures with the intention of re-using some or all of the recordings for future class offerings must notify students in the course syllabus if students' images may appear on video. Instructors are also advised to provide accommodation for students who do not wish to appear in class recordings.

4. Students may not record meetings without prior written consent, as this may compromise the rights of others in the class.

### **Required/Recommended Materials**

This course has digital components. To fully participate in this class, students will need internet access to reference content on the Canvas Learning Management System. If circumstances change, you will be informed of other technical needs to access course content. Information on how to be successful in a digital learning environment can be found at [Learn AnywhereLinks to an external site. \(https://online.unt.edu/learn\)Links to an external site..](https://online.unt.edu/learn)

**Required materials are the minimum used to be successful in this course, while recommended materials are not completely required but are highly beneficial for successful completion of this course.**

#### **Required:**

- *Computer Networking: A Top-Down Approach, 8th Edition* by James F. Kurose and Keith W. Ross.

### **How to Succeed in this Course**

#### **Netiquette**

Netiquette, or online etiquette, refers to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors online. Here are some general guidelines:

- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in email or any other communication.
- Remember that all college-level communication should have correct spelling and grammar (this includes discussion boards).
- Avoid slang terms such as “totes magotes” and abbreviations such as “u” instead of “you.”
- Humor and sarcasm are highly encouraged. People who take the world seriously are in for a rough journey.
- Don’t lead your emails off with your social security and bank account numbers, password manager master password, home address, credit score, and dental record jpegs. 3 of those will suffice.

- See these [Netiquette Guidelines Links to an external site.](#)(Links to an external site). for more information.

### Communication Expectations

Please send all communication via email first and foremost. If this fails, then send from your official student UNT email from (your [studentname@my.unt.edu](#) email address) to ([Ali.Zarafshani@UNT.edu](#)).

Just like you, I receive a virtual ton of spam to my email address, and if it has [EXT] in the subject line, there's a ~95% chance I'm just deleting it. Additionally, I cannot discuss any student issues through external email due to FERPA, i.e., I cannot confirm that I know it's you I'm conversing with - therefore, all emails from you must come from your official student email address.

I have a 48 to 72-hour policy to reply to all emails, except weekends and holidays, as do my TAs/IAs. All grades will be posted promptly after grading has been completed.

Please come to me/us with any issues that arise, send to my TA first, if they cannot resolve it, then come to me - that does not mean I cannot be the first step in an emergency.

If you forgot to turn in your homework, this does not constitute an emergency. Simply email us and attach your work so that we know you missed it - if you are within 15 minutes or so of the assignment closing, we will normally be forgiving (unless it keeps happening). Once we acknowledge this to you, we will allow you to properly submit a matching document to Canvas. If we find the documents are not the same, we will deduct as needed - if they are, you have a little grace.

Sending an email is free, and if I can't resolve it, we can move the issue up the chain.

In your emails, please include:

Communication Expectations

<b>Subject</b>	<b>the course (e.g., CSCE3530) that you are emailing about and a few words (aka, the Subject)</b>
<b>Body</b>	Please include your email with your name and UNT ID number.

This helps me not only help you, but if there are multiple issues with the course (i.e., a module is broken, for instance), I can quickly collate the issues.

**ODA**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to the faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member before implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the [Office of Disability Access](http://www.unt.edu/oda)[Links to an external site.](#) website (<http://www.unt.edu/oda>). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

### **Supporting Your Success and Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment**

I value the many perspectives students bring to our campus. Please work with me to create a classroom culture of open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion. All discussions should be respectful and civil. Although disagreements and debates are encouraged, personal attacks are unacceptable. Together, we can ensure a safe and welcoming classroom for all. If you ever feel like this is not the case, please stop by my office and let me know. We are all learning together.

Every student in this class should have the right to learn and engage in an environment of respect and courtesy from others. We will discuss our classroom's habits of engagement, and I also encourage you to review UNT's student code of conduct so that we can all start with the same baseline civility understanding ([Code of Student Conduct](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct)[Links to an external site.](#)) (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>)

### **Technical Assistance**

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustrations that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT, we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

[UNT Help Desk \(Links to an external site.\)](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

**Call:** [940-565-2324](tel:940-565-2324)

**Email:** [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu)

**Walk-in:** Sage Hall, Room 330

**Walk-in Hours:** Monday–Friday: 8 am - 5 pm

**Telephone Availability:**

- Monday–Thursday: 8 am – 9 pm
- Friday: 8 am- 5 pm
- Saturday: 11 am- 3 pm

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical HelpLinks to an external site.](#)

**Laptop Checkouts**[Links to an external site.](#)

The following library service desks provide laptop checkouts during [hours of operationLinks to an external site.](#). MacBooks are only available at Willis Library.

- **Willis Library:** [The SparkLinks to an external site.](#), First Floor
- **Sycamore Library:** [Sycamore Service DeskLinks to an external site.](#)
- **Discovery Park:** [Library Service DeskLinks to an external site.](#), Room B112

**Student Support Services**

- [RegistrarLinks to an external site.](#)
- [Financial Aid \(Links to an external site\).Links to an external site.](#)
- [Student Legal Services \(Links to an external site\).Links to an external site.](#)
- [Career Center \(Links to an external site\)Links to an external site..](#)
- [Multicultural Center \(Links to an external site\).Links to an external site.](#)
- [Counseling and Testing Services \(Links to an external site\).Links to an external site.](#)
- [Student Affairs Care Team \(Links to an external site\)Links to an external site..](#)
- [Student Health and Wellness Center \(Links to an external site\).Links to an external site.](#)
- [Pride Alliance \(Links to an external site\)Links to an external site..](#)

**Academic Support Services**

- [Academic Resource Center \(Links to an external site\).Links to an external site.](#)

- [Academic Success Center \(Links to an external site\)](#).Links to an external site.
- [UNT Libraries \(Links to an external site\)](#)Links to an external site..
- [Writing Lab \(Links to an external site\)](#)Links to an external site..
- [MathLab](#)Links to an external site.

## Assessing Your Work

***Percentages of final grades are approximate and subject to change.***

Percentages of Final Grades

<b>Bonus Assignment</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Final Project</b>	<b>18 %</b>
<b>Project Bonus (Project Progress)</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Mid Exam</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Weekly Lab Assignments (12) <i>Lowest 1 dropped</i></b>	<b>30 %</b>
<b>Final Exam (or Option-2 CompTIA Network+)</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Homework/Quiz</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Bonus</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>106%</b>

### Grading Scale

<b>Final Grade</b>	<b>Letter</b>
<b>89.5 - 100</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>79.5 - 89.49</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>69.5 - 79.49</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>59.5 - 69.49</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>&lt; 59.49</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>Grades are rounded to the nearest whole integer.</b>	

**There is "extra" credit, and it will be sprinkled throughout the semester - this is why I do not grant "extra" points at the end of the semester. You can expect grades to be returned within a reasonable time (within 4 - 5 days after the assignment CLOSES). If you turn in before the assignment closes, expect us not to look at it for grading until it closes for EVERYONE.**

## Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses the Eagle Alert system to quickly notify students of emergency situations, campus closings, and other urgent information. Students should ensure their contact information is up to date in my.unt.edu to receive these alerts. More information is available here: <https://riskmanagement.unt.edu/emergency/preparedness/emergency-notifications.html>Links to an external site. Risk Management ServicesLinks to an external site.

## Academic Integrity

Students are expected to uphold UNT's Academic Integrity standards. The full University policy is available here: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>Links to an external site.

## Final Project (20%)

- **Final Project (20%= 18% + 2% Project Progress)**
- **Midterm Exam and Final Exam:**
  - Each exam is worth **20% of the total course grade.**
- **Weekly Lab Assignments Policy (30%):**
- - Labs are an essential part of learning foundational concepts, especially when entering a new field such as computer networking. Students will complete at least one lab each week.
  - All labs will be available weekly and will close on the Saturday of the week they are assigned. Late submissions will be accepted with a **30% penalty.**
  - Labs account for **30% of the overall course grade.**
- **Weekly Homework/Quizzes Policy (10%):**

Weekly homework is presented in a multiple-choice "quiz" type format - **Because of this, WEEKLY HOMEWORK WILL NOT NORMALLY BE ACCEPTED LATE - without prior coordination (before the original due date). Weekly Homework accounts for 10% of the course's overall grade.**

- **Course Evaluation (SPOT) and Bonus Policy**

**Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)** is UNT's official course evaluation system. It provides students with the opportunity to confidentially offer constructive feedback to instructors and departments to improve the quality of the learning experience.

If the **overall class participation rate in SPOT reaches 95% or higher**, an **additional 5 bonus points** will be awarded **equally to all students** in the class. This bonus is based **solely on participation rate**, not on the content or nature of individual responses.

### **Assignment Policies**

- **Canvas File & Work Submission Policy**

All assignments are posted to Canvas and should be submitted to Canvas. Assignments cannot be accepted through email. Students are responsible for submitting the correct assignment to the applicable assignment submission in Canvas. Assignments may require multiple file uploads. Do not archive/compress/zip these into one file: Attach them individually. The only acceptable file type for upload can be previewed automatically by DocViewer in Canvas (<https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Instructor-Guide/What-types-of-files-can-be-previewed-in-Canvas/ta-p/607>Links to an external site.).

- **Late Work Policy**

No late submissions will be accepted **for any reason** without prior approval from **Dr. Zarafshani** (requests to the TA will not be considered). Please begin working on assignments and quizzes well in advance and ensure you have a reliable internet connection to prevent any delays or technical issues — this is why assignments are made available early. **Please note:** Discussion Questions **will not** be reopened once they close on their scheduled due date.

- **AI (Artificial Intelligence) with Academic Integrity Policy**

Students are expected **not** to use AI tools (such as ChatGPT, GitHub Copilot, Cody, Ghostwriter, etc.) in this course. While I understand some of you may choose to use them anyway, please be aware of the following:

**Do not rely on AI-generated output as authoritative.** If it produces a fact, number, or solution, assume it is incorrect unless you already know the answer or have verified it with a reliable source. *You* are responsible for any errors, inaccuracies, or omissions.

**Low-effort prompts produce low-quality results.** Simply asking AI for a solution will rarely result in meaningful or correct answers.

**Using AI can negatively impact your learning and critical thinking.** If you choose to use it, understand that I (and the TAs) will be able to understand that, and it will be your responsibility.

**AI is just a tool**—no different from any other tool (and in many cases, less reliable than a common tool like a hammer). Your mind is the most important tool you possess; sharpen it first before relying on anything else.

Please be thoughtful before using AI. These tools often produce incorrect, biased, or misleading information. **You will be held fully accountable for any content submitted, regardless of whether an AI tool was used.**

**Use of AI for the assignments:** Based on the Student Academic Integrity Policy (UNT Policy 6.003) and AI, Plagiarism, and Academic Integrity at UNT Policy (<https://guides.library.unt.edu/plagiarism/at-unt>[Links to an external site.](#)), any form of “unauthorized assistance” constitutes cheating. If the use of AI is not explicitly requested/authorized in a question, the violation is “**cheating**”. Therefore, the use of AI in assignments is NOT welcomed unless it is asked in question. Such cheating can result in the failure of the class (F) as follows:

The assignments will be evaluated using AI detection tools, e.g., Turnitin.

You can use AI to start learning but not finish it. No more than 25% AI is allowed for successful completion of your assignment. More than 25% AI usage is an automatic 50 (for the Paper), More than 50% AI usage is an automatic "0" for the paper.

(If a submission exceeds the soft threshold (i.e., 25% similarity), a deduction of two times the similarity will be applied (e.g., if you have a similarity of 25%,  $2 \times 25\% = 50\%$  deduction for that assignment will occur).

If a submission exceeds the hard threshold (i.e., 50% similarity), the assignment will be graded as 0 (zero).

For the second time exceeding the hard threshold, the student will automatically get an F (fail) from the class and may be reported to the university.

- **Screenshot Submission Policy**

Some assignments will have you submit screenshots to show that you completed the work.

There are three components to a good screenshot:

Do not take a photo with your phone.

Take a native screenshot with your operating system (<https://www.take-a-screenshot.org/>).

This screenshot should show identifying information.

No need to overthink this. The easiest way is just to open a Notepad.exe (Windows) or Stickies (macOS) and enter your EUID, then take a screenshot of the assignment.

Or you can open your university webmail and have your profile open in the screenshot.

Only screenshot what you need for the assignment.

If you have a 48" wide monitor, and the assignment only takes up 10% of your screen, please crop down the screenshot to only what is needed and no more.

- **Examination Policy**

You may use the Internet or any printed resources during exams, but please do not rely on this, as the exams and quizzes have a time limit, and many questions are not easily 'Google-able'. **DO NOT POST quiz questions to any online venue (Quizlet, Chegg, CourseHero, CheatMyDegree, etc.) or share quiz questions with other students (GroupMe, Discord, etc.).** Violation of this policy will result in a zero for the assignment or exam.

**Course Schedule/Assignments: 10 Week calendar showing the Semester start date of 18 May 2026 and Ends by July 24 (Final Exam Week).**