

Course Syllabus



CSCE1015 / Computing Tools and Techniques Laboratory

I reserve the right to modify course policies, the course calendar, assignment or project point values, and due dates.

Instructor Information

Name: Bailu Zhang (she/her)

Office Location: F296

Student Hours: Wednesday 11:00 AM - 12:00 AM (otherwise, please email to schedule)

Email: bailuzhang@my.unt.edu (<mailto:bailuzhang@my.unt.edu>)

Peer Mentor: Mauro Aviles Santos

Student Hours:

Email address: MauroAvilesSantos@my.unt.edu (<mailto:MauroAvilesSantos@my.unt.edu>)

Course Description, Structure, and Objectives

Fills in the “missing” information needed to become a successful, working computer scientist/engineer. A hands-on introduction to the tools, techniques, and procedures needed to be successful in future courses and careers.

Topics include:

- Linux
- Containerization/virtualization
- Version control with Git
- IDEs (Integrated Development Environments)
- Testing/debugging/profiling code
- Secure coding practices
- PKI (public key infrastructure) cryptography
- Tool automation
- Basic networking

This course takes place in-person through a one (1) hour lecture, followed by a one (1) hour lab assignment, and all assignments will be submitted through Canvas.

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:

1. Identify the components of computer architecture, networks, and client/server communication.
2. Access remote servers using appropriate authentication.
3. Navigate directories, manage files, and automate tasks using the Linux and Windows command line interface.
4. Use and be familiar with Git.
5. Develop, debug, profile, and test code using an IDE.


Prerequisites and Corequisites

Prerequisite(s): None.

Corequisite(s): CSCE 1030 - Computer Science I or CSCE 1035 Computer Programming I

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](http://www.ecfr.gov/)  (<http://www.ecfr.gov/>). 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 on-line 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 on-line 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>) (<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 videoconference 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 recordings for future class offerings must notify students on 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.

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 Anywhere](https://online.unt.edu/learn)  (<https://online.unt.edu/learn>).

Required:

Must be concurrently enrolled in CSCE 1030 or CSCE 1035.


Recommended (free/online):

None

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.
- No extra credit will be given for mentioning my [kitten](https://knowyourmeme.com/memes/orange-cat-behavior)  [. \(https://knowyourmeme.com/memes/orange-cat-behavior\)](https://knowyourmeme.com/memes/orange-cat-behavior).

See these [Netiquette Guidelines](https://digitalstrategy.unt.edu/clear/online-communication-tips.html)  [. \(https://digitalstrategy.unt.edu/clear/online-communication-tips.html\)](https://digitalstrategy.unt.edu/clear/online-communication-tips.html) for more information.

Communication Expectations

Please send all communication as email via your **official student UNT email (my.unt.edu)**. **I will not reply to any message in the CANVAS Inbox.**

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.


I have a 48 hour reply policy on all emails, excepting weekends and holidays. All grades will be posted promptly after grading has been completed.

Please come to me with any issues. 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:

Subject the course (e.g. CSCE1015-002) that you are emailing about and a few words (aka, *the Subject*)

Body a signature with 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 issue. I flag these emails with my preferred **color**  (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red>).

ODA

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation 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 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 prior to 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**  (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>) 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 within 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>)).

Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration 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](https://it.unt.edu/helpdesk)  [\(https://it.unt.edu/helpdesk\)](https://it.unt.edu/helpdesk)

Call: [940-565-2324](tel: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: 8am - 5pm

Telephone Availability:

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





For additional support, visit **[Canvas Technical Help](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328)**  [\(https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328\)](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328)






[Laptop Checkouts](https://library.unt.edu/services/laptop-checkout)  [\(https://library.unt.edu/services/laptop-checkout\)](https://library.unt.edu/services/laptop-checkout)

The following library service desks provide laptop checkouts during **[hours of operation](https://calendar.library.unt.edu/hours)**  [\(https://calendar.library.unt.edu/hours\)](https://calendar.library.unt.edu/hours). MacBooks are only available at Willis Library.






- **Willis Library: [The Spark](https://guides.library.unt.edu/spark)**  [\(https://guides.library.unt.edu/spark\)](https://guides.library.unt.edu/spark), First Floor
- **Sycamore Library: [Sycamore Service Desk](https://library.unt.edu/sycamore/service-desk)**  [\(https://library.unt.edu/sycamore/service-desk\)](https://library.unt.edu/sycamore/service-desk)
- **Discovery Park: [Library Service Desk](https://library.unt.edu/discovery-park/service-desk/)**  [\(https://library.unt.edu/discovery-park/service-desk/\)](https://library.unt.edu/discovery-park/service-desk/), Room B112

Student Support Services

- **[Registrar](https://registrar.unt.edu/registration)**  [\(https://registrar.unt.edu/registration\)](https://registrar.unt.edu/registration)
- **[Financial Aid](https://financialaid.unt.edu/)**  [\(https://financialaid.unt.edu/\)](https://financialaid.unt.edu/)
- **[Student Legal Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)**  [\(https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services\)](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)
- **[Career Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center)**  [\(https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center\)](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center)

- [Multicultural Center](https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center)  (<https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center>)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)  (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- [Student Affairs Care Team](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care)  (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>)
- [Student Health and Wellness Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center)  (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center>)
- [Pride Alliance](https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance)  (<https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance>)

Academic Support Services

- [Academic Resource Center](https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources)  (<https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources>)
- [Academic Success Center](https://success.unt.edu/asc)  (<https://success.unt.edu/asc>)
- [UNT Libraries](https://library.unt.edu/)  (<https://library.unt.edu/>)
- [Writing Lab](http://writingcenter.unt.edu/)  (<http://writingcenter.unt.edu/>)
- [MathLab](https://math.unt.edu/mathlab)  (<https://math.unt.edu/mathlab>)

Assessing Your Work

Percentages of final grade are approximate and subject to change.

Assignment percentages

Category	Percentage of Final Grade
Quizzes (2)	5%
Attendance/In Class Exercise	5%
Lab Assignments (13)	75%
Extra Credits	5%
Final Exam (Mandatory, in-person only)	15%

Grading scale

Final Grade Letter

90 - 100 A

80 - 89 B

70 - 79 C

60 - 69 D

< 60 F


Grades are rounded to the nearest whole integer.

There is no curving of grades, nor “extra” credit, as it is unfair to the other students.


Course Schedule/Assignments

Module	Title	Week	Assignment
0	Course Overview	Jan 12 th	Syllabus Quiz Academic Integrity Quiz
1	What is computer?	Jan 19 th	Lab
2	What is operating system and virtualization?	Jan 26 th	Lab

3	What is network?	Feb 2 nd	Lab
4	What is shell?	Feb 9 th	Lab
5	What is shell scripting?	Feb 16 th	Lab
6	What is Linux?	Feb 23 th	Lab
7	What is client/server?	Mar 2 nd	Lab
8	Spring Break	Mar 9 rd -15 th	No class
9	What is cryptography?	Mar 16 th	Lab
10	What is version control (Git)?	Mar 23 th	Lab
11	What are editors?	Mar 30 th	Lab
11	What is testing/debugging/profiling code?	Apr 6 th	Lab
12	What are secure coding practices?	Apr 13 th	Lab
13	What is the cloud?	Apr 20 th	Lab
14	What is career readiness?	Apr 27 th	
15	Final Exam	May 5 th -6 th	In person only


Students will be notified by Eagle Alert if there is a campus closing that will impact a class, website available at [Emergency Notifications and Procedures website](#) 

<https://riskmanagement.unt.edu/emergency/preparedness/emergency-notifications.html>).

The policy for academic integrity is available at [Academic Integrity Policy \(PDF\)](#)  <https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003%20Student%20Academic%20Integrity.pdf>).

Attendance and Participation

I have great respect for students who are balancing the demands of their coursework with the responsibilities of caring for family members. If you run into challenges that require you to miss assignment deadlines, please contact me or my TA. There may be some flexibility we can offer to support your academic success.

If you are experiencing any [symptoms of COVID](#)  <https://www.cdc.gov/covid/signs-symptoms/index.html>), please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu (<mailto:askSHWC@unt.edu>)) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Team at COVID@unt.edu (<mailto:COVID@unt.edu>) for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure.

Course Evaluation

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is the student evaluation system for UNT and allows students the ability to confidentially provide constructive feedback to their instructor and department to improve the quality of student experiences in the course.

Assignment Policies

Submittal 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.

Late Work Policy

No late submissions will be accepted for any reason. Please start work on assignments and quizzes well before the deadline and on a stable Internet connection to avoid any submission delays due to technical difficulties.

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

I expect you to use AI (GitHub Copilot, Cody, Ghostwriter, ChatGPT, etc.), in this class. Learning to use AI is an emerging skill, and I am happy to help you navigate these tools. However, there is a distinct difference between using AI to *help* you work and using AI to *fake* your work.

Permitted Use:

- You may use AI to explain complex topics, debug code, or generate code snippets, provided you understand them.
- **Requirement:** You must include a paragraph at the end of any assignment that uses AI, explaining what you used it for and the prompts you used.

Strictly Prohibited Use (Fabrication of Evidence):

- **You may NOT use AI to generate screenshots, terminal outputs, images, or logs.**
- Submitting an AI-generated image (e.g., a fake screenshot of a terminal) to represent work you did not actually perform is **Fabrication**. It is lying about having completed the assignment.


Consequences:

- **Zero Tolerance:** If you submit AI-generated screenshots or fabricated evidence of completion, you will receive an automatic **0** on the assignment.
- **Academic Dishonesty Report:** Unlike simple coding errors, fabrication is an ethical violation. **All instances of AI-fabricated evidence will be formally reported to the Office of Academic Integrity without warning.**

Screenshot Submission Policy

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

There are four components to a good screenshot:

1. Do not take a photo with your phone.
 - Take a ***native screenshot with your operating system***  (<https://www.take-a-screenshot.org/>)
• **You will get a 0 for this assignment if you submit a photo taken with your phone.**
2. **Generative AI is not appropriate for screenshots.** You must submit an actual capture of your own work; using AI tools to generate images of terminal outputs, code results, or dashboards is prohibited. Fabricating screenshots with AI is considered academic dishonesty and will result in an automatic 0 for the assignment and a formal report to the Office of Academic Integrity.
3. This screenshot should show ***identifying information***.

- o 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 the screenshot of the assignment.


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

4. Only screenshot what you **need** for the assignment.

- o 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.

Canvas File Upload Policy

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 is what 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>).

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'.













The final exam will be conducted in person only. Please plan accordingly.





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 Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Fri Jan 9, 2026	 Module 01 In Class Exercise: onboarding to Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC) https://unt.instructure.com/courses/138042/assignments/2942508	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 16, 2026	 Student Academic Integrity Policy Quiz https://unt.instructure.com/courses/138042/assignments/2895414	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
	 Syllabus quiz (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/138042/assignments/2895415)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jan 18, 2026	 Module 01: Build a PC assignment (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/138042/assignments/2895399)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jan 25, 2026	 Module 02: Virtualization assignment (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/138042/assignments/2895400)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 1, 2026	 Module 03: Network navigation assignment (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/138042/assignments/2895401)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 8, 2026	 Module 04: Shell assignment (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/138042/assignments/2895402)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 15, 2026	 Module 05: Linux Survival assignment (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/138042/assignments/2895403)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 22, 2026	 Module 06: Script assignment (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/138042/assignments/2895404)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 1, 2026	 Module 07: HTTP fileserver assignment (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/138042/assignments/2895405)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 15, 2026	 Module 08: SSH public key assignment (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/138042/assignments/2895406)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 22, 2026	 Module 09: VCS assignment (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/138042/assignments/2895408)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 29, 2026	 Module 10: VSCode+CELL assignment (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/138042/assignments/2895409)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 5, 2026	 Module 11: VSCode debugging assignment	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Sun Apr 12, 2026	<p data-bbox="578 134 1373 163">https://unt.instructure.com/courses/138042/assignments/2895410</p> <p data-bbox="578 233 990 336"> <u>Module 12: Input validation assignment</u> https://unt.instructure.com/courses/138042/assignments/2895411</p>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 19, 2026	<p data-bbox="578 405 987 543"> <u>Module 13: Your own advanced Artificial Intelligence assignment</u> https://unt.instructure.com/courses/138042/assignments/2895412</p>	due by 11:59pm
	<p data-bbox="578 611 1373 711"> <u>Final Exam- Requires Respondus LockDown Browser</u> https://unt.instructure.com/courses/138042/assignments/2895398</p>	
	<p data-bbox="578 779 1373 884"> <u>Pre-exam Final Exam (no grade)</u> https://unt.instructure.com/courses/138042/assignments/2895413</p>	