

CSC 216: Computer Networks

The CS department proposes a reduction in credits from 4 to 2. This reduction allows the department to offer a dedicated course on computer security. It provides greater flexibility to students in their choice of computer science electives. The course is also renumbered from 364 to 216 to reflect that the course is open to second year students, similar to other CS electives. This course will still cover key topics in computer networks.

Proposed outline for revised 2-credit course

- using Kurose & Ross, *Computer Networking: A Top-Down Approach*
- assuming two 50-minute meetings per week for 14 weeks

Week 1: Orientation

Protocols & Internet governance

The Internet protocol stack

Assignment: Identify three active IETF working groups of interest to you

Weeks 2 & 3: The application layer

HTTP, SMTP

DNS

Assignment: Experiments with telnet

Throughput & delay

Sockets

Assignment: Implement a simple Web server

Weeks 4 & 5: The transport layer

Multiplexing

Reliable data transfer

Flow control

Connection management

Assignment: Implement the BLAST protocol

Weeks 6, 7, & 8: The network layer

Routing & forwarding

The Internet protocol

The structure of IP addresses

Assignment: Experiment with ping & traceroute

Intradomain routing

Assignment: Read an RFC (RIPv2, RFC 2453)

Interdomain routing

Assignment: Read a research paper (e.g., "Understanding BGP

Misconfiguration" by Mahajan et al.)

Weeks 9 & 10: The link layer

Medium access control

Ethernet

802.11 (Wifi)

Assignment: Observing LAN traffic

Weeks 12 & 13: Congestion management

TCP congestion control

Streaming media & RTP

Assignment: Observing TCP behavior

Weeks 14 & 15: Final presentation

Present a current research paper or RFC (research, design, or practice)

Individual / small group meetings to prepare

Advanced and historical topics excised from the 4 credit course:

FTP

Peer-to-peer applications

Virtual circuit switching

Broadcast & multicast

Cell switching & token ring networks

PPP & MPLS

Mobility

Quality of Service

Network-assisted congestion management

Cryptography and network security (moved to new course on security)

Network management

Assignments excised from the 4 credit course:

Assignments with emulated networks (throughput, routing)

Final paper (students will instead give an oral presentation)

Exams