Administrative Information—CSci 551, Spring 2005 (Thursday Section)

John Heidemann

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A PDF of this document is available for off-line reading. See `http://www.isi.edu/~johnh/cs551.html` for the most recent copy.

Changes: 21-Oct-05: no changes yet

21-Mar-06: fix TA e-mail, it's `gbartlet/usc.edu`, not with two Ts (even though the last name has two Ts).

Time: Class: Thursday, 9am–11:50am.

Location: Olin Hall of Engineering, Studio E.

Instructor: John Heidemann (johnh/isi.edu)

TA: Genevieve Bartlett (gbartlet/usc.edu)

Grader: tba

Office hours: Professor: Tuesdays, 10am-11am and 4pm-5pm, Salvatori 234, (telephone (213) 740–4518 for remote students) or by arrangement through e-mail.

TA: tba or by arrangement through e-mail.

You can also contact the professor at ISI at (310) 448–8708. Meetings at ISI are possible, but the time should be confirmed via e-mail first.

E-mail questions are encouraged any time. After January 2005, class e-mail should be sent to csci551-profta@isi.edu to go to the professor and the TA. Before January send questions to (johnh/isi.edu).

Web page: `http://www.isi.edu/~johnh/cs551.html`.

Most of the web pages will actually be at a wiki (an editable web site) that can be reached from there. To get access to the wiki you *must register* using the web form.

Mailing list: A class mailing list is `csci551-talk/isi.edu`. Subscribe or unsubscribe using the web page `http://mailman.isi.edu/mailman/listinfo/csci551-talk`. (Do *not* send subscribe requests directly to the mailing list, use the -request address or web page!).

All messages sent to the mailing list are publicly archived at `http://mailman.isi.edu/pipermail/csci551-talk/`. (You may want to use this to look for old messages sent by your classmates.)

DEN services: Because the class is taught through USC's Distance Education Network (DEN), lectures are available as webcasts. The webcasts are password protected using the same password as the class web pages.

Students are encouraged to watch the live TV feed or the large-bandwidth webcast. I have real doubts that the low-bandwidth webcast can provide an adequate class experience.

For technical problems with the webcast, please contact DEN at webclass/usc.edu. (You may also contact me for problems on my end, like you can't read my writing :-)

Course description: The subject of this course is computer communication protocols. The emphasis is on conceptual and experimental issues in the design and implementation of computer networks and internetworks.

This material will be taught primarily by reading and discussing the relevant papers in the area, augmented with homework and programming assignments (not optional :-), and optional readings from textbooks.

Placement exam: Entry to the class is governed by a placement exam. See the department web page for details.

Admission: There have frequently been more students who want to take CSci551 than there are positions available, so it may be impossible to admit all students even if they passed the placement exam. If necessary, we may prioritize student admission based on degree and seniority.

First Class: We will begin lecture on first day class, including discussing the papers for that day. Students are *strongly* encouraged to download the papers for the first day and read them before coming to class. (For classes after the first day, reading the papers before-hand is required.)

Syllabus: A syllabus will be available on-line on the course web site.

The primary readings for this class will be a set of papers papers available on the web.

You are welcome to download and print out copies of the papers. I strongly recommend you print them *double-sided*; typically they end up about 3 inches thick that way. If you prefer, the CS Department will make pre-printed, photocopied paper sets available at cost (I don't know what that cost is; ask them, not me). Please contact Jessica Sprague (sprague/usc.edu) for that.

In addition, three books are available for your use. Both are *optional*, but recommended students who would like a

more structured discussion to complement the papers. The primary text is *Computer Networks: A Systems Approach* by Larry L. Peterson and Bruce S. Davie (Morgan-Kaufman publishers); and the secondary texts are *Unix Network Programming: Volume 1: Networking APIs, Sockets* by W. Richard Stevens (publisher: Prentice Hall) and *BGP4 Inter-Domain Routing in the Internet* by John W. Stewart. These texts will be available from the bookstore if you desire.

The final list of papers will be similar to those used in Spring 2005, but some revisions should be expected.

Hint: keep a log of key phrases and ideas from each paper you read.

Grading:

midterm	25%
final	35%
homework	18%
programming assignments	22%

In addition, class participation may be reflected as part of the the homework grade.

The primary text is the collection of papers, so students are expected to have read all papers assigned for each class. CSci551 classes are intended to be interactive (not just lecture), discussing relevant issues covered in the papers. I evaluate class participation grade based on this discussion, also considering on discussions in e-mail, mailing lists, or during office hours. Every student is expected to bring up at least one issue during class over the semester. Remote students are especially encouraged to call in and contribute, although I realize and consider that this is more difficult (I weigh mailing list discussion higher for those students). Finally, oral or written critiques of papers may be required at any time.

All students at USC and in LA county *must* take all exams at USC. (Separate arrangements are made for very distant students.) Make-up exams will not be offered except in very unusual circumstances (death in the family, documented medical problem, etc.).

Homeworks are expected to be e-mailed to arrive before the beginning of class on the day they are due.

Late assignments: A 25% penalty will be assessed each day any assignment is late. Yes, this penalty is harsh—I don't want to waste your time and mine with late assignments. However, because mistakes occasionally happen, I will void *one day* of late penalty for *one assignment* for each student in the semester. If you want to use this slip day you must explicitly request it in e-mail to me and to the TA.

Observation: An observation about the point distribution: with a large fraction of the points allocated to the the project, students that do not allocate sufficient time to the project tend to be unhappy with their final grade at the end of the semester.

Electronic submission: Homework: All homeworks *must* be submitted electronically. Acceptable formats are PDF, PostScript, HTML, plain text (ASCII). Final homeworks will be sent via the `submit` program; for details see the TA's web page. Word/text processors formats (MS-Word, Word Perfect, FrameMaker, raw LaTeX, raw troff) are *not* acceptable—use the word processor to generate one of the accepted formats.

You're encouraged to select the electronic format most appropriate the work being handed in. Plain text (ASCII) is required for homeworks unless you have some kind of diagram or figure. Electronic submission is not intended to be burdensome. If you are unable or unfamiliar with how to produce one of the acceptable data formats, please see the instructor or TA. Some hints about generating PDF and Postscript are listed on the course web page.

When submitting something electronically, errors are possible (just like in all other approaches for assignment submission). We will inform you of e-mail problems that might be on our end (like we can't print your document, our we ran out of disk space), but students are responsible for sending information correctly and on-time. I recommend that students keep copies of *all* electronically submitted assignments (possibly by CC'ing yourself on the e-mail message) in case any questions arise.

Programming assignments: All programming assignments will also be submitted electronically, but with the "submit" program, *not* through e-mail. Details will accompany the first programming assignment.

Academic Integrity: All students are required to abide by the USC code of Academic Integrity. Violation of that Code will be dealt with as described in SCAMPUS. If you have any questions about the responsibilities of either students, faculty, or graders under this policy, contact me or the Office of Student Conduct.

All programming assignments will be compared against each other both by hand and via computer to detect assignments that have code in common. Sadly, I have failed far more students than I would like due to copying code or text from others. I *don't* want to do this to you, but I *will* I have no choice.

Comment: I take academic integrity *very* seriously. I'm sad to say that I regularly fail students because of plagiarism on programming assignments. I *don't* want to do this to you, but it is my responsibility to all students to ensure that people's work is evaluated fairly; getting credit for work someone else's work represented as your own is *not* fair to the many students who did the work themselves and will be treated accordingly.