



National University of Engineering (UNI)
School of Computer Science
Syllabus 2027-I

1. COURSE

CS231. Networking and Communication (Mandatory)

2. GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1 Course	: CS231. Networking and Communication
2.2 Semester	: 6 th Semester.
2.3 Credits	: 3
2.4 Hours	: 1 HT; 4 HP;
2.5 Duration of the period	: 16 weeks
2.6 Type of course	: Mandatory
2.7 Learning modality	: Face to face
2.8 Prerequisites	: CS2S1. Operating systems . (5 th Sem)

3. PROFESSORS

Meetings after coordination with the professor

4. INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

Networking and communication are foundational to modern computing systems, distributed applications, and the global internet. This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the full CS2023 Networking and Communication Body of Knowledge—from physical transmission and data link protocols, through reliable transport and routing, to application services, security, mobility, and emerging paradigms such as SDN and quantum networking. Students will develop both theoretical understanding and practical skills applicable to the design and analysis of modern networked systems.

5. GOALS

- Understand the layered architecture of the TCP/IP and OSI models, including the role and responsibilities of each layer.
- Explain single-hop communication mechanisms including MAC protocols, encoding, Ethernet, WiFi, and LAN topologies.
- Master the principles of reliable data transfer, flow control, and congestion control.
- Analyze routing paradigms, forwarding mechanisms, and IP scalability in local and wide area networks.
- Comprehend fundamental application-layer protocols of the Internet (DNS, HTTP, TCP, UDP) and implement socket-based applications.
- Understand network security threats and the countermeasures used to protect networked systems.
- Describe principles of mobile networking including cellular networks, wireless LANs, and device-to-device communication.
- Identify emerging networking paradigms such as SDN, network virtualization, and quantum networking.

6. COMPETENCES

AG-C03) Individual and Team Work: Performs effectively as an individual and as a member or leader in diverse teams. (Usage)

AG-C09) Design and Development of Solutions: Designs, implements, and evaluates solutions for complex computing problems. (Usage)

7. TOPICS

Unit 1: Fundamentals of Networks and Communications (6 hours)	
Competences Expected: AG-C03,AG-C09	
Topics	Learning Outcomes
• Importance of networking in contemporary computing, and associated challenges. See also: Digital Equity and Accessibility, Social Impact and AI, Civil Liberties and Expression, Data, Surveillance and Privacy Technology, Privacy Philosophical Foundations and Legislation • Organization of the internet (e.g., users, Internet Service Providers, autonomous systems, content providers, content delivery networks) • Switching techniques (e.g., circuit and packet) • Layers and their roles (application, transport, network, datalink, and physical) • Layering principles (e.g., encapsulation and hour-glass model). See also: Digital Systems and Logic, Sequential and Parallel Processing, State Machines • Network elements (e.g., routers, switches, hubs, access points, and hosts) • Basic queueing concepts (e.g., relationship with latency, congestion, service levels, etc.)	• Articulate the organization of the internet [Articulate] • List and define the appropriate network terminology [List] • Describe the layered structure of a typical networked architecture [Describe] • Identify the different types of complexity in a network (edges, core, etc.) [Analyze]
Readings : [Kurose2021], [Tanenbaum2021], [PetersonDavie2022]	

Unit 2: Single Hop Communication (6 hours)	
Competences Expected: AG-C03,AG-C09	
Topics	Learning Outcomes
• Introduction to modulation, bandwidth, and communication media • Encoding and Framing • Medium Access Control (MAC) (e.g., random access and scheduled access) • Ethernet and WiFi • Switching (e.g., spanning trees, VLANs). • Local Area Network Topologies (e.g., data center, campus networks).	• Describe some basic aspects of modulation, bandwidth, and communication media [Describe] • Describe in detail a MAC protocol [Describe] • Demonstrate understanding of encoding and framing solution tradeoffs [Demonstrate] • Describe details of the implementation of Ethernet [Describe] • Describe how switching works [Describe] • Describe one kind of a LAN topology [Describe]
Readings : [Tanenbaum2021], [PetersonDavie2022]	

Unit 3: Networked Applications (6 hours)	
Competences Expected: AG-C03,AG-C09	
Topics	Learning Outcomes
• Naming and address schemes (e.g., DNS, and Uniform Resource Identifiers) • Distributed application paradigms (e.g., client/server, peer-to-peer, cloud, edge, and fog). See also: Communication, Coordination • Diversity of networked application demands (e.g., latency, bandwidth, and loss tolerance). See also: Communication, Sustainable Design and Pervasive Computing, Environmental Footprint of Computing Systems, Systemic Effects and Social Context, Digital Equity and Accessibility, Social Impact and AI • Coverage of application-layer protocols (e.g., HTTP) • Interactions with TCP, UDP, and Socket APIs. See also: Programs: Distribution, Programs: Execution Properties, GPU Programming, Programs: Implementation Mappings, Programs: Declarative Parallelism, Programs: Starting Activities	• Define the principles of naming, addressing, resource location [Define] • Analyze the needs of specific networked application demands [Analyze] • Describe the details of one application layer protocol [Describe] • Implement a simple client-server socket-based application [Implement]
Readings : [Kurose2021], [PetersonDavie2022]	

Unit 4: Reliability Support (6 hours)	
Competences Expected: AG-C03,AG-C09	
Topics	Learning Outcomes
• Unreliable delivery (e.g., UDP) • Principles of reliability (e.g., delivery without loss, duplication, or out of order). See also: System Reliability • Error control (e.g., retransmission, error correction) • Flow control (e.g., stop and wait, window based) • Congestion control (e.g., implicit and explicit congestion notification) • TCP and performance issues (e.g., Tahoe, Reno, Vegas, Cubic)	• Describe the operation of reliable delivery protocols [Describe] • List the factors that affect the performance of reliable delivery protocols [List] • Describe some TCP reliability design issues [Describe] • Design and implement a simple reliable protocol [Design]
Readings : [Kurose2021], [Tanenbaum2021]	

Unit 5: Routing and Forwarding (6 hours)	
Competences Expected: AG-C03,AG-C09	
Topics	Learning Outcomes
• Routing paradigms and hierarchy (e.g., intra/inter domain, centralized and decentralized, source routing, virtual circuits, QoS) • Forwarding methods (e.g., forwarding tables and matching algorithms) • IP and Scalability issues (e.g., NAT, CIDR, BGP, different versions of IP)	• Describe various routing paradigms and hierarchies [Describe] • Describe how packets are forwarded in an IP network [Describe] • Describe how the Internet tackles scalability challenges [Describe]
Readings : [Kurose2021], [Tanenbaum2021], [PetersonDavie2022]	

Unit 6: Network Security (6 hours)	
Competences Expected: AG-C03,AG-C09	
Topics	Learning Outcomes
• General intro about security (Threats, vulnerabilities, and countermeasures). See also: Computer Crimes and Attacks, Security Laws, Policies and Responsibility, AI and Hardware Security, Access Control and Applications, Security Mindset and Principles, Security Design and Controls Engineering, Threat Analysis and Security Engineering, Trusted Computing and Privacy Engineering • Network specific threats and attack types (e.g., denial of service, spoofing, sniffing and traffic redirection, attacker-in-the-middle, message integrity attacks, routing attacks, ransomware, and traffic analysis). See also: AI and Hardware Security, Access Control and Applications, Security Mindset and Principles, Security Design and Controls Engineering, Threat Analysis and Security Engineering, Trusted Computing and Privacy Engineering • Countermeasures: – Cryptography (e.g. SSL, TLS, symmetric/asymmetric) – Architectures for secure networks (e.g., secure channels, secure routing protocols, secure DNS, VPNs, DMZ, Zero Trust Network Access, hyper network security, anonymous communication protocols, isolation) – Network monitoring, intrusion detection, firewalls, spoofing and DoS protection, honeypots, tracebacks, BGP Sec, RPKI	• Describe some of the threat models of network security [Describe] • Describe specific network-based countermeasures [Describe] • Analyze various aspects of network security from a case study [Analyze]
Readings : [Stallings2022], [Kurose2021]	

Unit 7: Mobility Support (6 hours)	
Competences Expected: AG-C03,AG-C09	
Topics	Learning Outcomes
- Principles of cellular communication (e.g., 4G, 5G) - Principles of Wireless LANs (mainly 802.11) - Device to device communication (e.g., IoT communication) - Multi-hop wireless networks (e.g., ad hoc networks, opportunistic, delay tolerant)	- Describe some aspects of cellular communication such as registration [Describe] - Describe how 802.11 supports mobile users [Describe] - Describe practical uses of device-to-device communication, as well as multihop [Describe] - Describe one type of mobile network such as ad hoc [Describe]
Readings : [Tanenbaum2021], [PetersonDavie2022]	

Unit 8: Emerging Topics (6 hours)	
Competences Expected: AG-C03,AG-C09	
Topics	Learning Outcomes
- Middleboxes (e.g., advances in usage of AI, intent-based networking, filtering, deep packet inspection, load balancing, NAT, CDN) - Network Virtualization (e.g., SDN, Data Center Networks) - Quantum Networking (e.g., Intro to the domain, teleportation, security, Quantum Internet) - Satellite, mmWave, Visible Light	- Describe the value of advances in middleboxes in networks [Describe] - Describe the importance of Software Defined Networks [Describe] - Describe some of the added value achieved by using Quantum Networking [Describe]
Readings : [PetersonDavie2022], [Tanenbaum2021]	

8. WORKPLAN

8.1 Methodology

Individual and team participation is encouraged to present their ideas, motivating them with additional points in the different stages of the course evaluation.

8.2 Theory Sessions

The theory sessions are held in master classes with activities including active learning and roleplay to allow students to internalize the concepts.

8.3 Practical Sessions

The practical sessions are held in class where a series of exercises and/or practical concepts are developed through problem solving, problem solving, specific exercises and/or in application contexts.

9. EVALUATION SYSTEM

Theory Sessions:

The theory sessions are held in master classes with activities including active learning and roleplay to allow students to internalize the concepts.

Lab Sessions:

In order to verify their competences, several activities including active learning and roleplay will be developed during lab sessions.

Oral Presentations:

Individual and team participation is encouraged to present their ideas, motivating them with additional points in the different stages of the course evaluation.

Reading:

Throughout the course different readings are provided, which are evaluated. The average of the notes in the readings is

considered as the mark of a qualified practice. The use of our virtual campus allows each student to access the course information, and interact outside the classroom with the teacher and with the other students.

The final grade NF depends on the following grades:

- PE : Partial Exam.
- FE : Final Exam.
- P : Permanent Evaluation (Average of practical work and graded assignments).

The final grade NF is calculated as follows:

$$NF = \frac{PE + FE + P}{3}$$

10. BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY