

DRAFT SYLLABUS

This is posted for your info to help you select or prepare for a course. An official version will be ready at or prior to your course start. Texts will be same or very similar. Please check online bookstore for exact texts.

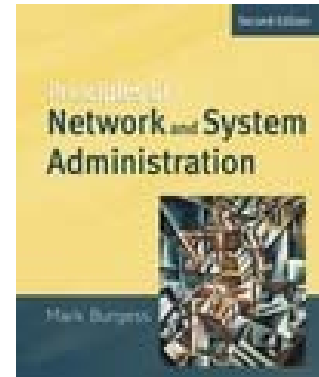
PA 6688 Network Administration 2004/T4

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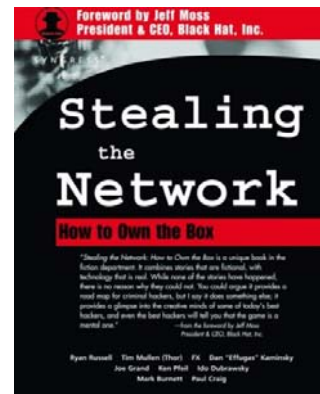
Welcome: I am glad to have this opportunity to work with each of you this term. Email can be cumbersome, but I do acknowledge all email. If you do not hear from me within the day, it is likely that your message went south for the winter. I really do try to review all submissions within a day or two of receipt. Sometimes this is not possible, and if students load me up at the end of the term, it is really impossible. Like all of you, my professional life is very demanding. All course content is on Blackboard.



Texts:

- o Mark Burgess "Principles of Network and System Administration" Wiley 2004 ISBN 047086807-4). 2nd edition. This is a new edition, greatly modified from the first. I will be developing course materials as we proceed into the term because it is new, and this exercise takes time. As materials become available, I will post them.
- o Term project book is Stealing the Network: How to Own the Box by Ryan Russell (Editor), Ido Dubrawsky, et al. Syngress; (June 2003) ISBN: 1931836876

Stealing the Network: How to Own the Box is a unique book in the fiction department. It combines stories that are false, with technology that is real. While none of the stories have happened, there is no reason why they could not. You could argue it provides a road map for criminal hackers, but I say it does something else; it provides a glimpse into the creative minds of some of today's best hackers, and even the best hackers will tell you that the game is a mental one." - From the foreword by Jeff Moss, President & CEO, BlackHat, Inc.



Introduction: This is a course which lays a foundation for the management of computer networks. It is a technical course, but as I understand some of you may not have a full appreciation for operation of computer networks, I will strive to strike a balance between issues associated with managing a network of people using computers, and the infrastructure itself. I presume that students taking this course have a professional interest in computer network management. Straighten me out if you can.

You will quickly discover that the author of our text is very much interested in Unix environments. We are going to skirt this discussion and glean from it the principals that will apply to any networking environment. You will want to build your understanding of concepts, and overarching applications without worrying about how to issue commands in Unix. There are many similarities between Unix and Novell, and less so to Windows. It is my understanding that Novell is the leader in network operating systems, and it is the one that I know the best.

Strategy: The term is nine weeks in length. The last week is reserved for examinations and getting term papers turned in, so we have eight weeks of reading and reporting. I am going to ask that you develop a "learning portfolio." To accomplish this, for each of the 13 chapters you will have a "thought" problem to write about based on your reading, and perhaps additional research. You should send this to me **according to the calendar below**. For each chapter I will prepare discussion points. These discussion points will serve as the question pool for the examination. It will probably be useful to you to have <http://www.webopedia.com> bookmarked. I want you to use this site to search key terms in your weekly writing problems, and use the appropriate resources here to deepen your understanding of the principles. This will not be hard, and I think you will find it an excellent tool.

Measurements:

- Portfolio 50 points: So named, but consists of individual writing assignments submitted as email attachments on the due date from the calendar below.
- Exam 25 points: This consists of essays based on the weekly exercises. Do a good job on these and you will have no problems.
- Term Project 25 points: A 10 page ds paper, APA format, based on the assigned text.

For your term project I request that you write a 10 page, double space paper that provides seven pages of summary and three pages of critical analysis and insight. For these three pages, please do additional scholarly research using the TSU library. Your project should be to decipher the truth behind the fiction from the perspective of a network administrator. I request that you use scholarly articles for the main thrust of your analysis. You must use APA citation for the entire paper. In the course content area I will place a short file on the basics of writing a précis. Generally the most difficult aspect for students is the critical analysis part. Make sure that this portion actually connects to the précis. This paper is due the last week of the course (week nine). Work on it over the next weeks. Resist the temptation to postpone.

Your examination will consist of five short narrative style essays based on the learning discovered through your portfolio, and the discussion points that I will outline for each chapter. In this regard, there is associated terminology that links to these questions. This is the technical language of MIS, and you must be familiar with it to be successful as an IT manager.

Learning Culture: On line learning is certainly different from classroom learning. For the former you routinely engage the professor in assessment of learning objectives, while for the later the milieu is more socially constructed. I am not opposed to using Black Board for discussions, but I have never found this to stimulate much interest, and I think it is

because our students are scattered, share little in terms of professional work, and do not have a habit of "on-line" discourse. All the same, I will create discussion forums on Black Board. There is always one for introductions. There will also be one for "content" issues. It is there if you wish to avail yourselves of it. I would encourage you to check in with Black Board about once a week just to see what is going on, if anything.

Pace of the course: The course is nine weeks, with eight weeks of actual assignments based on our reading of the text. Eight weeks is not very long. I know this, and I know that even dividing a book into 8 weeks is somewhat arbitrary. Here is the plan:

Week 1 By 3/22	Week 2 By 3/29	Week 3 By 4/05	Week 4 By 4/12	Week 5 By 4/19	Week 6 By 4/26	Week 7 By 5/03	Week 8 By 5/10	Week 9 By 5/21
C1 & C2	C3 & C4	C5 & C6	C7 & C8	C9 & C10	C11	C12	C13	Final

Please use this table. All course materials are placed in the Content section of Black Board, including the synopsis of materials for the final. This synopsis will be no different than the weekly materials. It would be wise to submit to me weekly, that is, on the Monday following the week you work the assignment. Failing to follow this schedule *might* result in a point devaluation of the assignment.

Please send all assignments to me as email attachments. Please do not use the digital drop box. If you have submitted work, and you do not hear from me within a couple days, verify that I have actually received your assignment.

Grading: I use a 10 point scale.

9+ is an A.

8 - 8.9 is a B.

7 - 7.9 is a C. Anything less hardly matters, although it does average.

Contact me any time with any issues that I can assist in resolving.

Please review Network Design Principles (a pdf file) in the Course Resources area of Blackboard.