



# Stony Brook University

*Electrical Engineering Online  
Online Syllabus  
Last updated July 2021*

**Important Note:** Every effort will be made to avoid changing the course schedule, but the possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary. It is your responsibility to check Blackboard for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be clearly noted in course announcements or through Stony Brook email.

## Part 1: Course Information

**Course title: Computer Communications**

**Course catalog # and section: ESE 346 and EEO 346**

**Credit hours: 3**

**Semester: Spring 2022**

**Prerequisites: ESE 306**

**Instructor name: Thomas Robertazzi**

**Instructor's Stony Brook email, phone number, and time zone:**

**[Thomas.Robertazzi@stonybrook.edu](mailto:Thomas.Robertazzi@stonybrook.edu) , home: 631-281-9331, Any day before 8pm EDT/EST  
(Phone does not have texting)**

**Office hours: Any day including weekend before 8 PM call me at 631 281 9331**

**TA Information:**

**Course Description:** Basic theory and technology of computer communications. Introduction to performance evaluation, error codes and routing algorithms. Other topics include machine learning, queueing theory, network planning, Ethernet, wireless networks including LTE and 5G, fiber optic networking, software defined networking, networking on chips, space networks, data centers, grids and clouds, and network security.

**Required Course Textbook and Materials:**

**Note – Prof. Robertazzi has written a number of books with somewhat similar sounding titles, please get the two specified below.**



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(A) (required) **Networking and Computation: Technology, Modeling and Performance**, 2nd ed. by Thomas Robertazzi and Li Shi, 2020. Publisher: Springer ([www.springer.com](http://www.springer.com)). (Abbreviated: NC) ISBN 978-3-030-36703-9.

(B) (recommended) **Introduction to Computer Networking**, 2017, 1st ed by Thomas Robertazzi, 2017. Publisher: Springer ([www.springer.com](http://www.springer.com)). (Abbreviated: ICN) ISBN 978-3-319-53102-1.

[C] (optional) **Planning Telecommunication Networks**, 1<sup>st</sup> ed by Thomas Robertazzi, 1999.

Publisher: IEEE Press/Wiley, (Abbreviated PTN) ISBN 9780780-347021.

#### **Course Delivery Mode and Structure:**

This is an *online course, delivered in the Blackboard learning management system (LMS)*. Students must be mindful of all course expectations, deliverables and due dates, especially because the online portion of the course requires significant time management. All assignments and course interactions will utilize internet technologies. See “Technical Requirements” section for more information. In Blackboard, you will access online lessons, course materials, and resources. Each Learning Module spans 1 or more weeks; with deadlines on SUNDAY End of day 11:59 PM EDT/EST. Some variations will occur.

#### **How We Will Communicate:**

For course related questions and personal/private issues, email or call me directly any day before 8 PM (631-281-9331). If you use Blackboard’s **email tool** from the course site, it will automatically include your full name, course name and section when you send me an email. **Please allow between 24 hours for an email reply.** Your Stony Brook University email must be used for all University-related communications. You must have an active Stony Brook University email account and access to the Internet. All instructor correspondence will be sent to your SBU email account. **Plan on checking your SBU email account regularly for course-related messages.** To log in to Stony Brook Google Mail, go to <http://www.stonybrook.edu/mycloud> and sign in with your NetID and password.

Regular announcements will be sent from Blackboard. These will be posted in the course site and may or may not be sent by email.

Regular communication is essential in online classes. Logging in once a day, checking the discussion board and participating with your peers ensures that you are able to remain an active member of the class and earn full points for participation.

#### **Technical Requirements:**

This course uses Blackboard for the facilitation of communications between faculty and students, submission of assignments, and posting of grades and feedback. The Blackboard course site can be accessed at <https://blackboard.stonybrook.edu>

If you are unsure of your NetID, visit <https://it.stonybrook.edu/help/kb/finding-your-netid-and-password> for more information. You are responsible for having a reliable computer and Internet connection throughout the term. **Caution!** You will be at a disadvantage if you attempt to complete all coursework on a smart phone or tablet. It may not be possible to submit the files required for your homework assignments.

Students should be able to use email, a word processor, spreadsheet program, and presentation software to complete this course successfully.

The following list details a minimum recommended computer set-up and the software packages you will need to have access to, and be able to use:

- PC with Windows 10 or higher (we recommend a 3-year Warranty)
- Macintosh with OS 10.11 or higher (we recommend a 3-year Warranty)
- Intel Core i5 or higher
- 250 GB Hard Drive
- 8 GB RAM
- Latest version of Chrome or Firefox; Mac users may use Chrome or Firefox. (A complete list of supported browsers and operating systems can be found on the My Institution page when you log in to Blackboard.)
- High speed internet connection
- Word processing software (Microsoft Word, Google Docs, etc.)
- Headphones/earbuds and a microphone
- Webcam (recommended)
- Printer (optional)
- Ability to download and install free software applications and plug-ins (note: you must have administrator access to install applications and plug-ins).

#### **Technical Assistance:**

If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem with Blackboard you can:

- Phone: 631-632-9800 (client support, Wi-Fi, software and hardware)
- Submit a help request ticket: <https://it.stonybrook.edu/services/itsm>
- If you are on campus, visit the Walk-Up Tech Support Station in the Educational Communications Center (ECC) building.

### **Part 2: Course Learning Objectives and Assessments**

Upon completion of the course, students will have:

- An ability to identify, formulate and solve complex engineering problems by applying principles of engineering, science and mathematics.

- An ability to develop and conduct appropriate experimentation, analyze and interpret data and use engineering judgement to draw conclusions.
- An ability to acquire and apply new knowledge as needed using appropriate learning strategies.

**How to Succeed in this Course:**

- Complete all assigned readings in the course
- For the probability, routing, error code and queueing problems, do as many problems for practice as you can, only looking at the solutions when you finish the problem. Problems can be found on the old exams on Blackboard and in the chapter text and end of chapter problems. Worked out probability problems can also be found in chapter 2 of the Networking and Computation book. For the qualitative material, read the first half of the chapter on machine learning in the Networking and Computation text and the chapters in the Introduction to Computer Networking book.
- How much time should students devote to an online course? Time on task information, see NY State Education Department: <http://www.nysed.gov/college-university-evaluation/distance-education-program-policies>

## Part 3: Course Schedule

Dates/Week	Module	Learning Objectives	Topic	Videos/Readings	Assessment
Week 1 8/23/21	Module 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Students will be able to apply probability theory to networking problems.</li> <li>-Students will be able to solve fundamental networking probability problems.</li> </ul>	Probability Review and Performance Evaluation	Reading: -NC: CH 2.1-2.4 Video: -Probability	HWK 1 Due 1/30/22
Week 2 8/30				HWK 2 Due 2/6	
Week 3 9/6 Labor Day	Modules 2 & 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Students will be able to solve basic Hamming and CRC coding and line code and networking coding problems.</li> </ul>	Algorithms: Error Codes, Line Codes, Network Coding, Routing	Reading: -NC: CH 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7 Video: Error codes	HWK 3 Due 2/13
Week 4 9/13		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Students can complete Dijkstra and Ford Fulkerson shortest path routing problems.</li> </ul>		Video: Routing	HWK 4 Due 2/20
Week 5 9/20	Module 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Students can solve basic queueing theory problems including mean value analysis, negative customer models and stochastic Petri networks.</li> </ul>	Queueing Theory	Reading: -NC: CH 3.1-3.3, 3.5-3.7, 3.8	Self Exam 1 on Module 1, 2, 3, 4 topics Due 2/27
Week 6 9/27				Video: Queueing Theory	
Week 7 10/4	Module 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Students will describe how machine learning works and the basic types of machine learning</li> </ul>	Machine Learning for Networking	Reading: -NC: CH 7.1-7.2.6	Project 1 Due 3/6
Week 8 10/11				Video: Machine Learning for Networking	Self Exam 2 On queueing. Due 3/20
Week 9	Module 6			Reading:	Essay 1

10/18					Due 3/27	
Week 10					Essay 2 Due 4/3	
10/25					Project 2 Due 4/10	
Week 11					Essay 3 Due Tuesday 4/19	
11/1					Essay 4 Due 4/24	
Week 12						
11/8						
Week 13						
11/15						
Week 14						
11/22						
Week 14 and 15 11/29	Module 7	<p>- Students will be able to explain current technology and issues</p> <p>-Students will be able to describe and create linear programming models for network planning problems</p> <p>-Students will be able to describe and use dynamic programming, terminal assignment models and concentrator models for networking planning problems</p>	<p>-IEEE Local Area and Wireless Network Standards (Ethernet, Wifi 802.11, Bluetooth 802.15, cellular LTE)</p> <p>-Infiniband, MPLS and Fiber Optic Networking (including SONET and WDM)</p> <p>- Software Defined Networks. Networks on Chips</p> <p>-Space Networking</p> <p>-Grids, Clouds and Data Centers</p> <p>- AES and Quantum Cryptography</p>	<p>Introduction to Computer Networking, read appropriate chapter as each is covered in videos.</p> <p>Videos: Introduction to Networking</p> <p>Misc Notes: Online teaching notes pdf files folder</p>	<p>Videos and Planning Telecommunications Networks book (Reading: 2.1-2.6, 3.1-3.3)</p>	<p>Self Exam Final Due 5/1/22</p>

<b>Part 4: Grading, Attendance, and Late Work Policies</b>
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**Assessment and Grading:**

**Viewing Grades on Blackboard:** Points and feedback for graded activities will be posted to the My Grades tab in the Tools area of Blackboard. *Assignments are graded within 72 hours and will be posted to Blackboard.*

In this course, you will be assessed on the following:

Activity/Assignment	Points	Due Date
Self-Exam I	16	Week 5
Self Exam II	16	Week 7
Home works	16	Week 1-4
Projects (two at 10 points each)	20	Week 7, 12
Essays (four at 4 points each)	16	Weeks 11-14
Final Self Final Exam	16	Week 14
Total	100	

**Home works:** Problem sets / topics from text books

**Essays:** For some chapters in the Introduction to Computer Networking text you will write 500 words on some aspect of the chapter coverage that you find interesting. You will write an executive summary style paper. Essays must be based on a related paper (**paper must be published in 2019-2021**). Relevant papers can be found on IEEE/IET and Science Direct databases on the library website. Look also on Google Scholar.

**Project:** The first project is a discrete event simulation. The second involves plotting performance curves for some switching networks. Students may consult with each other but must do the projects on their own. Codes of 2 or more students **MUST NOT** be identical or a reuse of a past semester's code.

**Self Exams:** There are two self-exams in the course. Students create their own problems and solutions based on the homework problems for the first self-exam and based on queuing theory for the second self-exam. Create 4 problems and solutions for each self-exam.

**Self Final Exam:** Students create their own exam based on course topics specified by the professor each semester. Create four questions and answers. Grading is based on choice of questions and reasonableness of answers. Questions should make one think a bit.

### Old Exams

Several semester's worth of old exams and solutions will be on Blackboard under Course Documents. This is particularly relevant for the first self exam.

### Letter Grades:

Final grades assigned for this course will be based on the percentage of total points earned and are assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Points or Percentage
A	About 90+
A-	85-89
B+	80-84
B	75-79
B-	70-74
C+	
C	At least 65
C-	
D+	
D	
F	Around 55 or lower

- Additional information
  - [Undergraduate Grading System](#)
  - [Graduate Grading System](#)

**Late Work Policy:** The 4 homeworks at the beginning of the course will not be accepted after their deadline. Please contact me 3 days prior if you need additional time.

## Part 5: University and Course Policies

### University Policies:

#### Student Accessibility Support Center Statement:

If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may impact your course



work, please contact the Student Accessibility Support Center, 128 ECC Building, (631) 632-6748, or at [sasc@stonybrook.edu](mailto:sasc@stonybrook.edu). They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and the Student Accessibility Support Center. For procedures and information go to the following website: <https://ehs.stonybrook.edu/programs/fire-safety/emergency-evacuation/evacuation-guide-people-physical-disabilities> and search Fire Safety and Evacuation and Disabilities.

**Academic Integrity Statement:**

Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty is required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. Faculty in the Health Sciences Center (School of Health Technology & Management, Nursing, Social Welfare, Dental Medicine) and School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty please refer to the academic judiciary website at [http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/academic\\_integrity/index.html](http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/academic_integrity/index.html)

**Important Note:** Any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, will be reported to the Academic Judiciary.

**Critical Incident Management:**

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of University Community Standards any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. Further information about most academic matters can be found in the Undergraduate Bulletin, the Undergraduate Class Schedule, and the Faculty-Employee Handbook.

**Course Policies:****Understand When You May Drop This Course:**

It is the student's responsibility to understand when they need to consider withdrawing from a course. Refer to the Stony Brook Academic Schedule for dates and deadlines for registration: [http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/registrar/calendars/academic\\_calendars](http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/registrar/calendars/academic_calendars).

- [Undergraduate Course Load and Course Withdrawal Policy](#)
- [Graduate Course Changes Policy](#)

**Incomplete Policy:**

Under emergency/special circumstances, students may petition for an incomplete grade.

Circumstances must be documented and significant enough to merit an incomplete. If you need to request an incomplete for this course, contact me for approval as far in advance as possible.

**Course Materials and Copyright Statement:**

Course material accessed from Blackboard, SB Connect, SB Capture or a Stony Brook Course website is for the exclusive use of students who are currently enrolled in the course. Content from these systems cannot be reused or distributed without written permission of the instructor and/or the copyright holder. Duplication of materials protected by copyright, without permission of the copyright holder is a violation of the Federal copyright law, as well as a violation of Stony Brook's Academic Integrity.

**Online Communication Guidelines and Learning Resources:**

Maintain professional conduct both in the classroom and online. The classroom is a professional environment where academic debate and learning take place. I will make every effort to make this environment safe for you to share your opinions, ideas, and beliefs. In return, you are expected to respect the opinions, ideas, and beliefs of other students—both in the face-to-face classroom and online communication. Students have the right and privilege to learn in the class, free from harassment and disruption. The course follows the standards set in the Student Code of Conduct, and students are subject to disciplinary action for violation of that code. If your behavior does not follow the course etiquette standards stated below, the grade you receive for a posting may suffer. I reserve the right to remove any discussion messages that display inappropriate language or content.

**Online Etiquette:**

- Offensive language or rudeness will not be tolerated. Discuss ideas, not the person.
- Avoid cluttering your messages with excessive emphasis (stars, arrows, exclamations).
- If you are responding to a message, include the relevant part of the original message in your reply, or refer to the original post to avoid confusion;
- Be specific and clear, especially when asking questions.
- Use standard punctuation and capitalization. Using all UPPERCASE characters gives the appearance of shouting and makes the message less legible;
- Remember that not all readers have English as their native language, so make allowances for possible misunderstandings and unintended discourtesies.

**Online Classes Require Better Communication:**

It is important to remember that we will not have the non-verbal cues that occur in a face-to-face classroom. I cannot see the confused, frustrated, or unhappy expressions on your face if you encounter problems. You **MUST** communicate with me so that I can help. To make the experience go smoothly, remember that you're responsible for initiating more contact, and being direct, persistent, and vocal when you don't understand something.

**My Role as the Instructor:**

As the instructor, I will serve as a “guide” in our online classroom. While I will not respond to every post, I will read what is posted, and reply when necessary. Expect instructor posts in the following situations:

- To assist each of you when it comes to making connections between discussion, lectures, and textbook material.
- To fill in important things that may have been missed.
- To re-direct discussion when it gets “out of hand.”
- To point out key points or to identify valuable posts.

**Part 6: Student Resources**

Academic and Major Advising (*undergraduate only*): Have questions about choosing the right course? Contact an advisor today. Phone and emails vary—please see website for additional contact information; website: <https://www.stonybrook.edu/for-students/academic-advising/>

Academic Success and Tutoring Center (*undergraduate only*):  
<https://www.stonybrook.edu/tutoring/>

Amazon @ Stony Brook: Order your books before classes begin. Phone: 631-632-9828; email: Bookstore\_Liaison@stonybrook.edu; website: <http://www.stonybrook.edu/bookstore/>

Bursar: For help with billing and payment. Phone: 631-632-9316; email: bursar@stonybrook.edu; website: <http://www.stonybrook.edu/bursar/>

Career Center: The Career Center’s mission is to support the academic mission of Stony Brook University by educating students about the career decision-making process, helping them plan and attain their career goals, and assisting with their smooth transition to the workplace or further education. Phone: 631-632-6810; email: sbucareercenter@stonybrook.edu; website: <http://www.stonybrook.edu/career-center/>

Counseling and Psychological Services: CAPS staff are available by phone, day or night. <http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/caps/>

Ombuds Office: The Stony Brook University Ombuds Office provides an alternative channel for confidential, impartial, independent and informal dispute resolution services for the entire University community. We provide a safe place to voice your concerns and explore options for productive conflict management and resolution. The Ombuds Office is a source of confidential advice and information about University policies and procedures and helps individuals and groups address university-related conflicts and concerns. <http://www.stonybrook.edu/ombuds/>

Registrar: Having a registration issue? Let them know. Phone: 631-632-6175; email: registrar\_office@stonybrook.edu; <http://www.stonybrook.edu/registrar/>

SBU Libraries: access to and help in using databases, ebooks, and other sources for your research.

- Research Guides and Tutorials: <http://guides.library.stonybrook.edu/>
- Getting Help: <https://library.stonybrook.edu/research/ask-a-librarian/>

Student Accessibility Support Center: Students in need of special accommodations should contact SASC. Phone: 631-632-6748; email: sasc@stonybrook.edu; <https://www.stonybrook.edu/sasc/>

Support for Online Learning: <https://www.stonybrook.edu/online/>

Writing Center: Students are able to schedule face-to-face and online appointments. <https://www.stonybrook.edu/writingcenter/>