Class Meets:

Day: Thursday  
Time: 7:20 PM to 10:00 PM  
Where: Johnson Center, Room G10

Instructor: Ben Allen

My Contact Information:

E-mail address: ballen5@gmu.edu

Office number: 703-993-3478  
Feel free to leave messages here if I am unable to answer.

Office Hours: By Appointment on Friday after 4:30 PM.

In emergency situations, try my cell phone between the hours of 9:00 AM and 9:00 PM. If I am unable to answer, please leave a message at my office number. Please report absences before the fact by email (and if possible, in person). The number is 703-296-4443.

Course Materials:

I highly recommend everyone purchase a copy of the O’Reilly book *IOS in a Nutshell* by James Boney.

Course Goals:

By the end of this course, you will be able to identify, configure and describe the operation of networking hardware components and data link technologies. You will be able to use these building blocks to craft small inter-networks of moderate complexity.
## Course Schedule:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Overview, Review, Facility and Software Familiarization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Ethernet (and maybe Serial) Link Layer(s), Ethereal Protocol Analyzer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Internetwork Routing using static routes, RIP, and OSPF</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Routing within Autonomous Systems using BGP</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>TBD - Frame Relay and NBMA link topologies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>TBD - (Review)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>MIDTERM EXAM</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>TBD - MPLS Overview, Multicast Overview</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>TBD - MPLS L2 VPNs: Pseudowires, VPLS (E-LINE, E-LAN, E-TREE)</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>TBD - MPLS L3 VPNs</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>TBD - (Review)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM</td>
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Laboratory Reports:

Laboratory reports should be submitted in soft copy by email, preferably in portable document format (pdf). The instructor will set the specific due dates. Reports submitted late or in improper format will not be graded. Reports should include:

- A complete network topology diagram including your conceptual location within that diagram for each topology attempted.
- A list of all the physical elements used in the lab by your team and the corresponding layer of the OSI Model for each.
- A discussion or procedure list of the configuration and testing process. Discussing or listing problems encountered during the procedure and their solutions is also encouraged.
- Finally, you should report whether a working topology was successfully achieved, how the success or failure was determined and, if the topology did not work, a discussion of the probable causes of failure. Failed topologies that are well documented and analyzed will absolutely be given full credit: their instructional value is often greater than those of successes.

Homework:

Homework will be assigned on an occasional basis by the instructor and will include questions designed to help the student achieve and demonstrate mastery of key material.

There may be both written and practical unannounced quizzes to test your mastery of certain topics. Quiz grades are weighted equivalently to homework grades.

Examinations:

There will be one midterm and one final examination. Both will include a written portion and a practical (hands-on) portion.
Attendance Policy:

Students are required to attend all lab sessions. The instructor will take attendance at the beginning of each session. Late arrivals, early departures and absences will lose class participation points. Any absence planned or otherwise should be reported to the instructor by email and in person in advance.

Grading:

20%: Class attendance and participation. Everyone who shows up and tries will get full credit. Points will be deducted for disrupting or failing to participate in class.

20%: Lab reports homework and quizzes.

30%: The mid-term examination content will depend on the pace of the class and will cover all the material through week 6.

30%: The Final Examination will be a cumulative examination of all topics covered in the Course.

Disputing Your Grade:

Students are allowed to contest the grading of their own work. Students must demonstrate the correctness of their work by citation of a written reputable source. Reputable sources include published books or articles in industry magazines or academic journals or web articles recommended by the course materials or the Instructor.

Extra Credit:

Students may be given periodic opportunities to earn extra credit. These opportunities include:

- Assisting or correcting the Instructor
- Bonus questions in homework or examinations
- Extra effort in the assistance of classmates
Standards of Conduct:

- There is no eating or drinking in the lab.

- Disruptive or disrespectful behavior toward other students or the instructor will not be tolerated. Students will lose class participation points and may be asked to leave the lab.

- This is a lab, so experimentation is encouraged. However, please be courteous to others. Always communicate what you’re doing as it may impact other groups.

- If you have questions, by all means ask the instructor (after all, that’s why we’re here).