



ITNW 1325 088 – Fundamentals of Network Technologies (Online)

Course Syllabus: Fall 2026

“Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide personal, dynamic learning experiences empowering students to succeed.”

Instructor: Will McWhorter, Ph.D.

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Weekday	Office Hours
Monday	9:00 AM – 9:30 AM 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Tuesday	9:00 AM – 11:00 AM 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM
Wednesday	9:00 AM – 9:30AM 3:30 PM – 5:00PM
Thursday	9:00 AM – 11:00 AM 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM
Friday	None

This syllabus serves as the documentation for all course policies and requirements, assignments, and instructor/student responsibilities.

Information relative to the delivery of the content contained in this syllabus is subject to change. Should that happen, the student will be notified.

Course Description:

Instruction in networking technologies and their implementation. Topics include the OSI reference model, network protocols, transmission media, and networking hardware and software.

Prerequisite(s): None

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to identify and use network transmission media.
2. Students will be able to explain the OSI model.
3. Students will be able to identify the characteristics of network topologies and protocols.
4. Students will be able to identify the functions of a network operating system and distinguish between centralized, client/server, and peer-to-peer systems.
5. Students will be able to distinguish between Local Area Networks (LANS) and Wide Area Networks (WANS) and identify the components used to expand a LAN into a WAN.

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

The breakdown of the course requirements is as follows:

%	Requirement
30%	Chapter Quizzes
25%	Lab Assignments
15%	Midterm Exam
15%	Final Exam
15%	Review Questions

Semester grades will be earned as follows

Percentage	Letter Grade
90% and above	A
80%–89%	B
70%–79%	C
60%–69%	D
59.9% and below	F

Chapter Quizzes

There will be a quiz over each chapter of the book covered in the course. These quizzes will consist of mostly multiple-choice questions with a few short answer questions as well. Students will be allowed to use the textbook for reference. Chapter quizzes can be taken at home.

Lab Assignments

*There will be a series of lab assignments designed to provide hands-on experience of various security concepts. These lab assignments are extremely important and will greatly enhance understanding of chapter topics. **The lab assignments are NOT optional.***

Midterm Exam

*The Midterm Exam will consist of multiple-choice questions taken from multiple chapters of the book. The textbook can be used for reference during the exam. **The Midterm Exam is a proctored exam that must be taken at an approved testing facility.** For most NTCC students, the best location is the college testing center located in the Student Services Building. For students at other college, an approved testing location must be discussed with the course instructor. Makeup exams will not be given unless arrangements have been made prior to the test time.*

Final Exam

*The Final Exam will consist of multiple-choice questions taken from multiple chapters of the book. The textbook can be used for reference during the exam. **The Final Exam is a proctored exam that must be taken at an approved testing facility.** For most NTCC students, the best location is the college testing center located in the Student Services Building. For students at other college, an approved testing location must be discussed with the course instructor. Makeup exams will not be given unless arrangements have been made prior to the test time.*

Review Questions

Review questions from the end of each chapter will reinforce comprehension of concepts. These review questions are primarily multiple-choice questions. Review questions must be completed using the Blackboard interface in the course shell.

Required Instructional Materials:

Title: CompTIA Network+ Guide to Networks, 9th edition

Author: Jill West, Tamara Dean, Jean Andrews

Publisher: Cengage

ISBN Number:

Inclusive Access eBook (Already included in the course)

ISBN 9780357508268

Printed Copy of Book (If you don't want to use the eBook)

Note: This is the more expensive option

ISBN 9780357508138

Optional Instructional Materials:

Related Network+ YouTube Videos

Minimum Technology Requirements:

You will need to have a dependable personal computer to complete the work for this course. You may be required to install and use some networking and security related software and utilities.

Required Computer Literacy Skills:

Basic computer literacy skills and abilities such as typing, copy / paste, file management are required in order to be successful in this course.

Course Structure and Overview:

This course will be delivered through the online format using NTCC's Blackboard Learning Management System. The following general course information provides additional detail regarding expectations for the course.

Several elements are essential for your success in this course. You will need to be aware and understand these fully prior to starting the course.

- Online courses require extensive engagement (with other students, the instructor, and the course materials) as well as timely completion of assignments. Assignments are due by the posted due dates so keeping up with the schedule is essential to your success. Your personal schedule must allow you to keep up with the due dates for the readings, assignments, quizzes, and exams.

- You must have continuous access to a working and dependable computer and Internet provider.
- A USB flash drive for file storage and transport as well as headphones for listening to online lectures and other videos is recommended.
- Be prepared and read the appropriate material in the textbook as well as view the related course videos.
- You are expected to turn in completed assignments through Blackboard. Any assignments marked late by the interface may receive up to a 10% late penalty.
- No assignments will be accepted unreasonably late.
- Unless specifically indicated by the instructor, collaboration on assignments among students is not intended or allowed. Assignments are to be performed individually, and any material handed in by a student should represent that student's own work.
- If two students turn in assignments that are identical or very nearly identical, BOTH students will be given a 0 for that assignment. Don't copy another student's work, and don't let someone else copy yours.

Communications:

The best method for communication with the instructor is through email wmcwhorter@ntcc.edu Every effort will be made to respond within 24 hours to student emails. It might take up to 48 hours on weekends. Students can also communicate in person outside of class by visiting the instructor during official office hours. You can also communicate with me using Microsoft Teams. There is a link in the BlackBoard shell that will take you to the Teams for this course.

Institutional/Course Policy:

Student Conduct in Class Policy

Any acts of classroom disruption that go beyond the normal rights of students to question and discuss with instructors the educational process relative to subject content will not be tolerated, in accordance with the Academic Code of Conduct described in the Student Handbook.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Attendance will be taken each day and excessive absences can affect the participation component grade. The student is responsible for obtaining material distributed on class days when he/she was absent. This can be done through contacting a classmate who was present or by contacting the instructor during her office hours or other times. Contact your instructor by phone or email should you not be able to attend class. Please see the schedule of classes for the last day to withdraw. Religious Holy Days: please refer to the current Northeast Texas Community College Student Handbook.

Electronic Devices in Class Policy

Cell phones should be placed on silent or vibrate in the classroom. In emergency situations, if not during lecture, the student may ask permission to step outside the classroom and take their calls. Text messaging during class is a distraction for the completion of work. The first time a student is caught interacting with the phone rather than working, the phone will be taken from them until the end of the period. After the second time, the student will be asked not to bring the cell phone to class. If these guidelines are not followed, further disciplinary action will be taken which could include reduction in overall grade. Reasonable laptop-size computers may be used in lecture for the purpose of taking notes or completing assignments.

Withdrawal

Students who wish to drop the course must do so by the deadline for student-initiated withdrawal. If circumstances cause you to stop attending classes, then you must still officially withdraw or expect to receive an F in the course. In addition, the instructor may withdraw a student from the course if the student fails to attend three consecutive class meetings.

Alternate Operations During Campus Closure and/or Alternate Course Delivery Requirements:

In the event of an emergency or announced campus closure due to a natural disaster or pandemic, it may be necessary for Northeast Texas Community College to move to altered operations. During this time, Northeast Texas Community College may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include, but are not limited to, online through the Blackboard Learning Management System, online conferencing, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor NTCC's website (<http://www.ntcc.edu/>) for instructions about continuing courses remotely, Blackboard for each class for course-specific communication, and NTCC email for important general information.

Additionally, there may be instances where a course may not be able to be continued in the same delivery format as it originates (face-to-face, fully online, live remote, or hybrid). Should this be the case, every effort will be made to continue instruction in an alternative delivery format. Students will be informed of any changes of this nature through email messaging and/or the Blackboard course site.

Statement Regarding the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technology:

Employees and students shall be permitted to explore artificial intelligence (AI) and implement its use in and out of the classroom in accordance with policy and administrative regulations. The use of AI shall only be as a support tool to enhance student outcomes or as necessary to engage in research and shall never take the place of faculty, staff, and student decision-making. Any use of AI must comply with law, policy, and administrative regulations relating to student and employee privacy and data security. A student shall only use AI tools with faculty permission and shall be expected to produce original work and properly credit sources, including AI tools used in creating the work.

Example:

APA (7th edition)

OpenAI. (2026). ChatGPT (March 25 version) [Large language model]. <https://chat.openai.com/>

MLA (9th edition)

OpenAI. ChatGPT. 25 Mar. 2026, <https://chat.openai.com/>.

Employees or students who use AI tools to deceptively harm, bully, or harass others shall be disciplined in accordance with policy. [See DH, DIA series, FFD series, FFE, FLB, and the FM series] AI Use by Employees and Students. Northeast Texas Community College 225500 TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES CRB ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (LOCAL) DATE ISSUED: 12/8/2025 1 of 1 UPDATE 50 CRB(LOCAL)-AJC Adopted: 12/16/2025

NTCC Academic Honesty/Ethics Statement:

NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. The college expects all students to engage in their academic pursuits in an honest manner that is beyond reproach using their intellect and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty and Academic Ethics policies stated in the Student Handbook. Refer to the student handbook for more information on these subjects.

ADA Statement:

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodation for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodation as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodation. An appointment can be made with the Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services and can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the special populations page on the NTCC website.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.

Tentative Course Schedule:

See the following page.

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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week beginning (Monday)	Activity
(1) August 24	Introduction Chapter 1: Introduction to Networking
(2) August 31	Chapter 2: Infrastructure and Documentation
(3) September 7	Chapter 3: Addressing
(4) September 14	Chapter 4: Protocols
(5) September 21	Chapter 5: Cabling
(6) September 28	Chapter 6: Wireless Networking
(7) October 5	Chapter 7: Network Architecture
(8) October 12	Midterm Exam
(9) October 19	Chapter 8: Segmentation
(10) October 26	Chapter 9: Wide Area Networking
(11) November 2	Chapter 10: Risk Management
(12) November 9	Chapter 11: Security in Network Design
(13) November 16	Chapter 12: Performance and Recovery
(14) November 23	Thanksgiving
(15) November 30	To Be Announced
(16) December 7	Final Exam Week