In this 3-credit course, students will be introduced to the concepts and terminology of telecommunications technologies as they pertain to solving business problems within the organizational context. Specific issues and topics include signaling, media, data transmission concepts, the hardware and software associated with local and wide-area networking, network management, the Internet and associated technologies, and data communications trends.

Prerequisites
MIS 7615: Graduate standing.
MIS 8615: MIS 7615 or permission of instructor. Those who have not taken MIS 7615 will be required to attend lectures, take exams, and participate in lab assignments for that course.

WARNING: A prerequisite check will be done once the first class roll has been issued. If you do not meet this requirement, it is your responsibility to correct the situation during the official add period. If you have not met this requirement and have not corrected this situation, you may be administratively dropped.

Required Texts

Major Course Objectives
Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:
• Identify and discuss the technical issues related to the use of data communications technology
• Identify and discuss the organizational and managerial issues related to the use of data communications technology
• Identify and discuss the factors to be considered in the selection of network hardware, software, topologies, and protocols
• Identify each of the resources that can be distributed in a distributed network and discuss the tradeoffs to be considered in distributing these resources
• Read and understand telecommunications trade and vendor literature
Methodology
The course will consist of a combination of lectures, weekly assigned readings (journal article information is listed at the bottom of the class schedule), and class discussion. All students will be required to complete a group project as well as bring in relevant articles from trade journals to generate discussion. For those students seeking credit for 8615, outside class discussions and papers will also be assigned. Mastery of the assigned material will be determined by the quality of an individual’s class participation, exam results, and course project(s).

Professor’s Expectations of Students
In general, the students should assist the instructor in creating a positive, supportive environment for learning. To this end, students are expected to attend classes on a regular basis, arrive to class on time, remain in class until dismissed, participate in discussions when appropriate, turn in assignments on their assigned due date, and take examinations when scheduled. Most importantly, all participants in the class should be considerate of the other class participants and treat them (as well as their opinions) with respect. Insensitivity in this area will not be tolerated. The University of Memphis has clear codes regarding cheating and classroom misconduct. Refer to the Student Handbook section on academic misconduct for a discussion of these codes.

Grading Policy
Total possible points for the two courses are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>7615</th>
<th>8615 (Not taken 7615)</th>
<th>8615 (Have taken 7615)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mid-term Exam</strong></td>
<td>100 pts</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
<td>120 pts</td>
<td>120 pts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group Work</strong></td>
<td>70 pts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Individual Presentation</strong></td>
<td>20 pts</td>
<td>20 pts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>In-class assignments</strong> (e.g., exercises, Internet research, Pop-up quizzes, paper summaries)</td>
<td>Max of 50 pts</td>
<td>Max of 50 pts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8615 students only</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Three summaries of articles from the reading list (see the instructor for the list)</td>
<td>60 pts</td>
<td>60 pts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Three &quot;Thought Papers&quot; (8615)</td>
<td>60 pts</td>
<td>60 pts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Presentation of emerging tech/ issues</td>
<td>30 pts</td>
<td>30 pts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Article search</td>
<td>20 pts</td>
<td>20 pts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>Max of 360 pts</td>
<td>Max of 460 pts</td>
<td>170 pts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please discuss any concerns you may have about these policies as early as possible in the semester. Final grades will be based on an overall weighted average score of course assignments and exams. Final letter grades are not determined according to a "curve." Instead, guaranteed minimum letter grades are determined according the percentage of possible credit achieved by each student. This is done to promote a cooperative climate in which assisting one’s classmates and/or studying in groups
(which is strongly encouraged) does not adversely affect one’s own letter grade. If everyone earns a higher grade, so much the better. The course is graded A through F (no +/-) as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>7615</th>
<th>8615</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90% - 100%</td>
<td>90%-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89.9%</td>
<td>80-89.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79.9%</td>
<td>70-79.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69.9%</td>
<td>60-69.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60%</td>
<td>Below 60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any homework, report, or project turned in late will be reduced 10% per school day. Milestones 1 and 2 are an exception, however, because their completion often depends on interactions with professionals whose schedules are subject to change.

**Extra Credit**

*Extra credit assignments to increase a student's grade are not available.* However, individualized help is available during office hours or other appointments to help the student prepare for future exams and assignments.

**Late withdrawals and "Incomplete" final grades**

The University recognizes only two reasons for late drops: medical problems or relocation out of the area by an employer. A final grade of "I" will be awarded only in the event of unforeseen, non-preventable circumstances. Personal plans (e.g., weddings, airplane trips) do not constitute "unforeseen, non-preventable" circumstances. Documentation must be provided to substantiate the "I" grade.

**Exams**

Exams are composed of essay questions intended to test conceptual knowledge. *Depth of understanding is a critical factor in the assessment of responses. Shallow, undergraduate-level answers will be awarded fewer points.* It is understood that most graduate students are holding important, career-oriented positions. Make-up exams are given, but please do not abuse this privilege.

**Final Exams: Attendance**

The University of Memphis Schedule of Classes clearly states that attendance in final examinations is "compulsory." Therefore, no early final exams will be given.

**Plagiarism**

To plagiarize is “to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one’s own “ use (another's production) without crediting the source … to commit literary theft” (Webster’s). Plagiarism constitutes academic misconduct. The Graduate Bulletin of The University of Memphis states the following:

> …graduate students should become familiar with the University’ policies on plagiarism in its various forms….Violations of academic misconduct are administered by the academic discipline committee, a University standing committee appointed by the President” (p. 15).

*Any milestone with plagiarized material will be given zero credit, with an automatic loss of 20% on the final written and oral presentations.* Cases involving significant amounts of plagiarism will be turned over to the Dean of Judicial and Ethical Programs.

**MIS 8615 Papers (Not required for those taking MIS 7615)**

For those students seeking doctoral credit for the course, four research-oriented papers, one presentation (a part of the 4th assignment) and multiple out-of-class meetings will also be assigned.
The paper and presentation will investigate the use of reference literatures, methodologies, etc. in the study of data communication networks in organizational settings. Tentative due dates are listed in the class schedule. NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Papers should be between four and six pages long, excluding references.
Student Data Sheet
ISDS 7670/8670  Instructor: Ted Lee

Semester: _______________

Name: ______________________________  UUID# (last 4 digit): ___________
  First (you wish to be called by)     Last

Major/Dept: _______________  Year Standing: ________________

E-mail: _________________

Phone: _______________________(h)    ______________________(w)

MIS Courses Taken:

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

Courses/experiences in Networking:

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

Work Experience

Position: ___________________________________________________________

Where: ____________________________________________________________

How long: _________________________________________________________

Purpose (expectation) of taking this course

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________