Fall Class Information

- Overview:

From the catalog description:

Today we all live and work in a participatory cyberspace. Computers, the data networks that interconnect them, and the services available over the networks make up this cyberspace. As cyberspace invades almost all areas of modern day living, playing and working, it is becoming more important that people understand its technical and political underpinnings and operations, as well as its capabilities, threats, and weaknesses. This is a companion course to CSCI E-45b. The goal of this pair of courses is to give students the tools they need to understand, use, and manage the technologies involved, as well as the ability to appreciate the legal, social, and political dynamics of this ever expanding universe and the interplay between the cyber and physical worlds. The pair of courses covers the essential elements of computing and the history, structure, operation, and governance of the Internet. This course focuses on the fundamental workings of the digital world. From individual computing devices to the broader Internet, students learn how each piece in this gigantic puzzle comes together to create the digital infrastructure that is the cyberspace of today and tomorrow. In addition, we explore the fundamental concepts, technologies, and issues associated with managing and securing cyberspace. (4 credits)

- Readings:

All assigned readings will be available over the Internet. References may include material not on-line but only the on-line material is required for the course. Reading assignments will be posted in the Fall Reading Assignments section of the wiki.

- Lectures:

Lectures will be Fridays from 5:35 pm to 7:30 pm U.S. Eastern time in Maxwell Dworkin G125 and will be live streamed. The lectures will assume that the students will have read the assigned readings before the lecture. The web version of the lectures should be posted by 5pm U.S. Eastern time the Monday following the lecture except where there is a Monday holiday in which case the web version should be posted by 5pm Tuesday.

- Exams

The exams are open-book take-home. The exams will be posted at about 8 pm U.S. Eastern time (after the lecture) and due (via email) at one minute before midnight U.S. Eastern time a week later. The exams cover the material through the lecture on the day the exam is posted. The final exam is cumulative and covers the entire course. All exams must be work done by the individual student -- no shared work is permitted. We are required to report any evidence of plagiarism to the Extension School authorities.

- Grading:

The midterm exam counts for 40% of the course grade and the final exam counts for 60%.

- Extra Credit Projects:

Special extra credit projects are possible upon prior request. Any extra credit is added to the class grade. All projects must be original work by the individual student. Projects cannot be material used in another class or copied from the other sources (such as the web). We are required to report any evidence of plagiarism to the Extension School authorities.

- Office Hours:

Fridays at 4:00. Schedule in advance via email (e45a@sobco.com).