The Physics Behind the Internet - PHYS 155/ Winter 2007
Tue, Thur 10:00am - 11:50am Pacific Hall 16
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DESCRIPTION - A non-major's science course to introduce the physical concepts necessary to understand how computers and the Internet work. Fundamental principles of physics will be discussed using only elementary math and simple algebra.
Note: The course is not meant to be "easy." I strongly advise that readings and problem sets be evenly spread throughout each week rather than saved up for "the night before."

Required Text - The Physics Behind the Internet, course packet by M.G. Raymer, to be purchased at the UO bookstore. These will also be posted on the blackboard site.

Attendance - Since much of the material is not covered in the text, especially the content of lecture demonstrations, attendance of all lectures is essential to learning the subject. As a check on attendance and to wake you up, unannounced 5-minute, easy Nano-Quiz will be held approximately weekly. Missed nano-quiz cannot be made up.

Grading -
Weekly Homework: 25%, you may work together on this, but you must write up your solutions by yourself.
Nano-Quiz (approximately weekly, unannounced; one lowest nano-quiz grade in term, including any missed quiz, will be dropped): 10%
Quiz 1 (Week 4): 10%,
Quiz 2 (Week 8 or 9): 20%,
Final (8:00 am, Thurs. Mar. 22, Pac. 16): 35%

Homework Policy - All assignments are due by 5:00 pm on the due date, normally a Thursday. Assignments will be accepted up to 24 hours late, but will receive at most 80% credit. Assignments more than 24 hours late will earn no credit.

Course Web Site: http://blackboard.uoregon.edu/
Course Announcements, Lecture Supplements, Homework assignments, and other materials will be posted, usually as pdf files. It is your responsibility to check here daily for updates.

Notices: Use of electronic communication devices is not permitted during lectures, unless pre-approved by me.

Any suspected acts of academic dishonesty will be reported to the university's student conduct officials.

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with me soon.