MAS 201: Communication Technologies and Society
Final Exam Essay Questions

Following are four essay questions. Two of the questions will be on the exam, but you only have to answer one – you get to pick the one you want to answer. The essay question will be worth 20 out of 100 points, so it will require a good effort to do well.

1. Terminals, workstations, transmission links, and switches constitute the physical skeleton of a network. However, that is certainly not all there is to a network. Describe what else is needed to bring the network skeleton to life, and discuss its importance to the overall network concept, especially in terms of the aforementioned terminals, workstations, transmission links, and switches.

2. Relate the arguments for and against corporate and governmental surveillance of employees' and citizens' Internet usage, e-mail content, phone conversations, and the like. What are the methods used to accomplish this level of monitoring? Explain why you would or would not work for a company or agency that scrutinized its workers to this extent.

3. Based on your reading of the Budde article entitled "From Internet to Superhighway: The Future of Interactive Services" from the *1998 Annual Review of Communications,* assess the nature of the network that will provide broadband interactivity to the consumer and offer your opinion on how close you think we are to achieving that level of service. Make sure to emphasize issues of security and privacy in e-commerce.

4. Trace the history of the Internet from its beginnings as a Cold War-inspired Defense Department experiment in networking to its current status as a marketplace for kids, kidneys, super-model ova, and other such commodities.