The Structure of Information Networks	**First Reaction Paper**
CS 685 Fall 2002	**Due Monday September 23, 2002**

The first reaction paper for CS 685 will be due on Monday September 23, 2002, in class. Late assignments will not receive credit; you should plan to hand in whatever you have written on the 23rd. (If a genuine emergency situation prevents you from handing in the assignment on time, come talk to me and we can work something out.)

The reaction paper should focus on some topic from Sections 1-2 of the course, as outlined on the course home page. (The current home page has been updated since the first day of class, so you should check it before you begin.) As discussed previously, you should base your reaction paper on two closely related papers related to this topic, *at least one of which is not linked from the course home page.* It should be approximately 3 pages in length, and will be graded on a ✓ / ✓− / ✓+ scale.

One challenge in writing a reaction paper is how to avoid producing a summary, or a long list of relatively superficial observations. A useful organizing principle in thinking about a reaction essay is to focus on a particular key point that you want to draw out in relation to the papers, and to spend some time developing this point — for example, a subtle weakness in the papers; an interesting open question; a natural follow-up experiment; or a related strand of work from a different field that the authors are not aware of.