

Information Security
INF 350E (27413)/385T (27525) – Spring 2016
Friday 12:00-3:00 PM

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Course Overview

This class will be an overview of the field of information security, including security in information technology systems. It is meant to be an introduction to the topic, with a deliberate industry focus. The course will cover definitions, concepts, and goals that are commonly agreed upon by information security practitioners and industry and certification bodies.

In addition to the professional body of knowledge for the CISSP and SSCP professional security certifications, the course will take a complementary and critical approach in which we will explore other and alternate conceptions of security, supplemental readings, and exploratory projects.

Course Objectives

The major areas of learning and course objectives for this class include:

1. Fundamentals of information and IT security
2. Commonly recognized domains of IT infrastructure
3. Commonly recognized risks and threats to IT infrastructure
4. Methods of managing security risks and threats
5. Compliance and regulation considerations affecting organizations today
6. Working in the security industry, including professional certifications

Assignments

Assignments will include reading and in-class discussions, exercises and lab work in a virtual lab environment, and projects and papers. Depending on the size and composition of the class, these assignments vary and we will discuss them in more detail during the first day we meet.

In general, assignments look like this:

Assigned Readings – we will read several required texts, including books and articles that are assigned during the semester (including by the students themselves.) I expect everyone to have completely read all assignments prior to class and be ready to discuss.

Discussions – Similarly, I expect everyone to participate in class. Actively. This is a graduate level class and that means any classes that turn into lectures by me represent a failure on both our parts. It is incumbent upon all of you to keep me from lecturing.

Papers and Projects – in order to apply the readings and discussions, I'll be asking you to undertake papers and projects over the course of the semester. There will be some choice and flexibility involved here. We'll talk more about these assignments in class the first day and throughout the semester.

Grades

Given that the class only meets once a week, it is critical that you attend each scheduled class session. If you must miss a class you must let me know well ahead of time and arrange with one of your colleagues to take notes for you or cover any assignments due. I reserve the right to impose grading penalties on students who miss class.

Class Participation – keeping up with the readings, resulting in regular and engaged participation in class discussions, is required and counts for 1/3 of your final grade.

Per University policy, the grading scale for this class is A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, and F.

Office Hours: By Appointment

Required Textbooks

Goodman, M. (2015). *Future Crimes: Everything Is Connected, Everyone Is Vulnerable and What We Can Do About It*. Doubleday.

Krebs, B. (2015). *Spam Nation: The Inside Story of Organized Cybercrime-from Global Epidemic to Your Front Door*. Sourcebooks.

Zetter, K. (2014). *Countdown to Zero Day: Stuxnet and the Launch of the World's First Digital Weapon*. Crown.

Other supplemental readings will be assigned during the course of the semester. We will discuss these readings on the first day of class and throughout the Fall.

Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information please view the University catalog: <http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/the-university/#universitycodeofconduct>

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259.

Calendar:

Class	Activity	Reading & Assignments
Jan 22	Course Introduction	<i>Syllabus</i>
Jan 29	Blog Assignments	
Feb 5	Discussion	<i>Future Crimes</i> Student blog selections
Feb 12	Discussion Initial Project Plans	Student blog selections
Feb 19	Discussion	<i>Spam Nation</i> Student blog selections
Feb 26	Discussion	Student blog selections
Mar 4	OPEN	NO CLASS - LANCE AT RSA
Mar 11	Discussion Project One Due	<i>Countdown to Zero Day</i> RSA Highlights Student blog selections
Mar 18	SPRING BREAK	
Mar 25	Discussion	<i>CISSP Body of Knowledge</i> Student blog selections
Apr 1	Discussion	Student blog selections <i>Canvas Readings</i>
Apr 8	Discussion	<i>ISO 27000</i> Student blog selections
Apr 15	OPEN	Student blog selections <i>Canvas Readings</i>
Apr 22	Discussion	<i>COBIT</i> Student blog selections
Apr 29	Discussion	Student blog selections <i>Canvas Readings</i>
May 6	Last Day Project Two Due	