​​​​​​​​​​**CpS 391 - Computer Security**

Fall 2025

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| C:\Users\ahughes\Desktop\Dr. Alan Hughes.jpg​Instructor: Dr. Alan Hughes | **Instructor:** | Dr. Alan Hughes |
| **Office:** | AL76Alternatively, MB203 CS Lab (Mack Library, 2nd floor) |
| **Office Hours:** | MWF – 2pm (appointments preferred); T – electronic; Th – 10am (appointment only) |
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**Course Description:**

Introduction to computer security concepts, principles and practices, including but not limited to, authorization, attacks and attack prevention, infrastructure security, cryptography, controls, plans and procedures.

**Course Reading(s):**

CompTIA Security+ Guide to Network Security Fundamentals, 8th Edition

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**ISBN: 979-8-21-400063-3**



Other readings as assigned.

**Context:**

The faculty of the Computer Science department has aligned the computer science program with the goals of the Mathematical Sciences Division, the BJU Bible and liberal arts core objectives, and the BJU institutional goals. The goal of the Computer Science department is to align all courses in the Computer Science and Information Technology majors to support one or more of the following departmental goals. An asterisk indicates a specific goal fulfilled by this course.

1. Design and implement solutions to practical problems. \*
2. Demonstrate an ability to work effectively in teams. \*
3. Demonstrate an ability to communicate technological information effectively both in written and oral forms. \*
4. Demonstrate an ability to acquire new knowledge in the computing discipline. \*
5. Demonstrate an understanding of social, professional and ethical considerations related to computing. \*
6. Demonstrate understanding of fundamental concepts in the discipline. \*
7. Prepare students for graduate school or to secure employment in a related area. \*

**Course Goals:**

1. Design and implement solutions to practical problems.
2. Demonstrate an ability to work effectively in teams.
3. Demonstrate an ability to communicate technological information effectively both in written and oral forms.
4. Demonstrate an ability to acquire new knowledge in the computing discipline.
5. Demonstrate understanding of fundamental concepts in the student's discipline.
6. Provide the student a platform for continued learning and development of his God-given abilities.
7. Instill in the student a desire to use his abilities in service to Christ.

**Learning Objectives:**

At the end of the course, students should be able to:​

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| **Learning Objectiv​e** | **Assessment Tools​** |
| 1. Understand the major issues in information security, including malicious software threats, intrusion detection and prevention, and social engineering. | Writing Assignments, Quizzes, Tests |
| 2. Understand the common attacks on computer networks, and the methods used to detect and prevent those attacks. | Writing Assignments, Quizzes, Tests |
| 3. Understand the basic principles of information system security. | Writing Assignments, Quizzes, Tests |
| 4. Evaluate and articulate information security procedures and practices. | Writing Assignments, Quizzes |
| 5. Design and implement information security procedures and practices. | Writing Assignments and Lab Projects, Quizzes, Tests |
| 6. Understand the major points of an information security policy and how they apply to a particular business. | Writing Assignments (security policy development), Quizzes, Tests |

​​**Course Policies:**

**Qualifications**

CpS 110 is a pre-requisite for CpS 391.  (Non-IT majors, see or email Dr. Hughes for pre-requisite waivers)

**Emergency Procedures**

1. For CS Labs: In case of emergency requiring evacuation, students will exit the lab and leave the building through the rear staircase (turn left past SermonAudio). Students will gather by the large tree on the edge of the Mack Building rear parking lot with their class.
2. If we are unable to exit the building, the professor will instruct the students on the best course of action.
3. To be able to respond quickly to external threats, professors may keep classroom doors locked.  If you are late to class, you may need to knock on the door and be let in.

**Absences, lateness, and makeup opportunities**

1. The overarching guide for class attendance is the [BJU Class Attendance Policy](http://home.bju.edu/life/policies/class-attendance-policy.php).
2. For planned absences, please email me one week in advance.
3. Written assignments should be submitted before your planned absence.
4. Scheduled tests and quizzes should be taken before your planned absence; please contact me to make arrangements for doing so.
5. For absences due to incapacitating illness or emergency, you should contact me as soon as you are able to return to class in order to make arrangements for making up any graded work without penalty.
6. In other circumstances, tests and quizzes may be made up within one week of your return, with a 10 percent grade penalty for that test or quiz.
7. Leaving class early without prior arrangement will constitute an absence.

**Late Work**

1. Assignments must be submitted using the electronic submission system before midnight on the day due.
2. The use of the submission system will be explained during the first week of class.
3. Only work missed for legitimate reasons may be made up without penalty. Legitimate reasons include illness, a death in the family, or a BJU sanctioned tour.
4. You must make up late work according to the number of days missed - that is, missing one day of class gives you one extra day to turn in your work.
5. Any other late work will receive a 20% grade penalty.
6. All late work must be made up within one week in order to receive a non-zero grade.

Department Policies

1. MB203 computers are monitored at the podium. There is should be no student expectation of privacy, particularly during tests, quizzes, or lab tests.
2. Upper-level students may use AI for finding obscure or specialized features but MUST document its use. Be aware of the flaws that still exist with AI.
3. Attendance for project work days is required for the entire class period.
4. Part of presentation grade(s) is deportment and dress:
	* Men: dress shirt/jacket, dress shoes
	* Women: dress, pant suit, blouse/skirt, dress shoes
5. Professional development is part of the final grade.
	* Attendance at presentations (SermonAudio, Math Symposium, etc.)
	* Attendance at contests (programming contests, for instance)
	* Attendance at job fairs

Attendance at presentations by invited speakers

**Grade Appeals**

1. Grading appeals must be made by email only, no later than one week after the grade was assigned.
2. Appeals will be automatically denied if the student attempts to make the appeal verbally.
3. Email grading appeals should be made respectfully and logically ("My grade should be increased because.....").

**Academic Integrity**

1. The overarching guide for academic integrity is the [BJU Academic Integrity Policy](http://home.bju.edu/academics/integrity.pdf).
2. Cheating on assignments and tests is a form of deception and stealing, and as such, is prohibited by Scripture and will incur academic penalties.
3. Since the goal of the assignments in this course is to learn to develop the skills covered NOT just to complete the tasks assigned, and since the use of AI to complete or jumpstart tasks defeats the goal of the assignments, you may not use generative AI tools (i.e. Chat GPT, Bing Chat, Google Bard, etc.) in this course for any assignment without the professor’s express permission.  Should an AI tool be used with permission, its use must be documented.
4. Internet/AI enabled devices or any communication devices (including but not limited to smart glasses, watches, earbuds, etc.) are not permitted to be used and should be stored out of sight during the testing period.  Accessing these types of devices during the test will be construed as cheating and will be dealt with as such.
5. Assignments will be evaluated for plagiarism and AI use at the discretion of the professor.
6. All work is to be done individually unless Mr. Hughes gives permission for group work.
7. In general students are encouraged to assist one another in the lab environment *but must exercise care when seeking assistance while completing labs*.
8. **The goal is for each student to become familiar with information security and be able to work effectively on his or her own. Therefore, please do not copy work from another person, as this constitutes cheating.**

**Class Participation**

1. Compliance with student handbook policies, including the dress code, is expected during class.
2. Class participation grades are based upon actively participating in lecture class discussions, working diligently on course assignments in lab classes and being respectful to the rest of the class and the instructor.
3. Class participation grade will include in-class assignments throughout the semester that will be individually graded.
4. Playing games, electronic messages, working on other subjects, etc. is a demonstration of disrespect for both the instructor and other students, and is not allowed during lecture and lab classes.
5. Professional dress required for any presentations.

**Instructor Help outside of class**

You are encouraged to use **email** or the telephone to ask Dr. Hughes for assistance.

**Copyright Policy**

Copyright 2009-2024, Alan Hughes, as to this syllabus and all lectures. Students are prohibited from selling (or being paid for taking) notes during the course to, or by any person, or commercial firm without the express written permission of the professor teaching the course.​

**Emergency Disclaimer**

In the event of a disease outbreak, or other significant event, appropriate changes will be made to the course to facilitate finishing the semester. Students will be apprised in a timely manner should such an event occur.

**Schedule** (may be modified as needed during semester)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date**  | **Day**  | **Class**  | **Assignment** **Due** |
| **Week 1** |  | **Module 1 – Introduction to Security** |  |
| Aug 27 | W | Introduction and Syllabus; BJU Online; Introduction to Security – Chapter 1 | Read Syllabus |
| Aug 29 | F |  |  |
| **Week 2** |  | **Module 2 – Pervasive Attack Surfaces and Controls** |  |
| Sep 1 | M |  | Lab 1; Quiz 1 |
| Sep 3 | W |  |  |
| Sep 5 | F |  |  |
| **Week 3** |  | **Module 3 – Fundamentals of Cryptography** |  |
| Sep 8 | M |  | Lab 2; Quiz 2 |
| Sep 10 | W |  |  |
| Sep 12 | F |  |  |
| **Week 4** |  | **Module 4 – Advanced Cryptography** |  |
| Sep 15 | M |  | Lab 3; Quiz 3 |
| Sep 17 | W |  |  |
| Sep 19 | F |  |  |
| **Week 5** |  | **Module 5 – Endpoint Vulnerabilities, Attacks, and Defenses** |  |
| Sep 22 | M |  | Lab 4; Quiz 4 |
| Sep 24 | W |  |  |
| Sep 26 | F |  |  |
| **Week 6** |  | **Module 6 – Mobile and Embedded Device Security** |  |
| Sep 29 | M |  | Lab 5; Quiz 5 |
| Oct 1 | W | Test 1 – Ch 1-5 |  |
| Oct 3 | F |  |  |
| **Week 7** |  | **Module 7 – Identity and Access Management** |  |
| Oct 6 | M |  | Lab 6; Quiz 6 |
| Oct 8 | W |  |  |
| Oct 10 | F |  |  |
| **Week 8** |  | **Module 8 – Infrastructure Threats and Security Monitoring** |  |
| Oct 13 | M | Data Center Visit | Lab 7; Quiz 7 |
| Oct 15 | W |  |  |
| Oct 17 | F |  |  |
| **Week 9** |  | **Module 9 – Infrastructure Security** |  |
| Oct 20-21 | M | **Fall Break** |  |
| Oct 22 | W |  | Lab 8; Quiz 8 |
| Oct 24 | F |  |  |
| **Week 10** |  | **Module 10 – Wireless Network Attacks and Defenses** |  |
| Oct 27 | M |  | Lab 9, Quiz 9 |
| Oct 29 | W |  |  |
| Oct 31 | F |  |  |
| **Week 11** |  | **Module 11 - Cloud and Virtualization Security** |  |
| Nov 3 | M |  | Lab 10; Quiz 10 |
| Nov 5 | W |  |  |
| Nov 7 | F |  |  |
| **Week 12** |  | **Module 12 – Vulnerability Management** |  |
| Nov 10 | M |  | Lab 11, Quiz 11 |
| Nov 12 | W | Test 2 – Ch 6-10 | DRII Discussion |
| Nov 14 | F |  |  |
| **Week 13** |  | **Module 13 – Incident Preparation, Response, and Investigation** |  |
| Nov 17 | M |  | Lab 12; Quiz 12 |
| Nov 19 | W |  | ISACA discussion |
| Nov 21 | F |  |  |
| **Week 14** |  |  |  |
| Nov 22-28 |  | Thanksgiving Break! |  |
| **Week 15** |  | **Module 14 – Oversight and Operations** |  |
| Dec 1 | M |  | Lab 13; Quiz 13 |
| Dec 3 | W |  |  |
| Dec 5 | F |  | **Information Security Policy, with Biblical Principles of Security component** |
| **Week 16** |  | **Module 15 – Information Security management** |  |
| Dec 8 | M | Risk Presentations | Lab 14; Quiz 14**10am (before class starts all presentations must be turned in (or counted late)).** |
| Dec 10 | W | Risk Presentations | **Information Security Policy, with Biblical Principles of Security component** |
| Dec 12 | F | Risk Presentations | **Quiz 15** |
| **Final Exam**  |  |  |  |
| Dec 16 | Tue | 9:30-10:40am **Final Exam (Comprehensive)****Note:** If you pass the CompTIA Security+ certification exam before the final, you are exempt from taking it (given that you have done all the other required work for the course with good quality (B- or better)). | Lab 15  |

**Grading​**

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| **#** | **Item** | **Pts.** | **Total** |
| 15 | Quizzes  | 30 | 450 |
| 15 | Labs | 35 | 525 |
| 2 | Tests | 100 | 200 |
| 1 | Final Exam | 150 | 150 |
| 1 | Completed Security Policy with Biblical Principles of Security Paper | 300 | 300 |
| 1 | Risk Presentation (team) | 100 | 100 |
| 1 | Class Participation (includes in-class assignments) | 100 | 100 |
| ​ | **TOTAL** | ​ | 1825 |
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**Grading Scale**

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| --- | --- |
| A | 90-100 |
| B | 80-89 |
| C | 70-79 |
| D | 60-69 |
| F | < 60​​ |