



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
**SAN ANTONIO**

CSEC 5327:900, Advanced Information Security, Fall 2025, CRN: 12211  
Department of Computational, Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, College of  
Arts and Science

### **Course Syllabus**

<b>Class Meeting Time and Place:</b>	W 7:00 pm - 9:45 pm pm, Hybrid/STEM 269
<b>Class Duration:</b>	08/25-12/12
<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Izzat Alsmadi Office: STEM 211F Tel: 210-784-2313 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:ialsmadi@tamusa.edu">ialsmadi@tamusa.edu</a> Student emails will receive a reply within two business days.
<b>Course Website:</b>	<a href="https://tamusa.blackboard.com/">https://tamusa.blackboard.com/</a>
<b>Office Hours:</b> M W	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm STEM 211F/online 2:00 pm – 4 pm STEM 211F/online  and by appointment.

**Catalog Course Description:** This course examines the concepts, principles, and applications of computer security in the business environment including Privacy, Information Security, and Critical Infrastructure. This course explores the knowledge and skills needed to ensure security of information and information systems within organizations. It focuses on concepts and methods associated with security across several systems platforms, including internal and Internet-based systems. The course utilizes a world view to examine critical infrastructure concepts as well as techniques for assessing risk associated with accidental and intentional breaches of security in a global network. It introduces the associated issues of ethical uses of information and of privacy considerations.

Prerequisite: CCS Department Approval.

**Course Objectives:** Students will learn about:

- Implement security configuration parameters on network devices and other technologies.
- Given a scenario, use secure network administration principles.
- Explain network design elements and components.
- Given a scenario, implement common protocols and services.
- Given a scenario, troubleshoot security issues related to wireless networking.
- Explain the importance of risk related concepts.
- Summarize the security implications of integrating systems and data with third parties.
- Given a scenario, implement appropriate risk mitigation strategies.
- Given a scenario, implement basic forensic procedures.
- Summarize common incident response procedures.
- Explain the importance of security related awareness and training.
- Compare and contrast physical security and environmental controls.
- Summarize risk management best practices.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

- Describe the fundamental principles and concepts of Information Technology Security and Information Assurance
- Recognize the need for the careful design of a secure organizational information infrastructure.
- Demonstrate an understanding of security technologies
- •Develop a comprehensive security model
- Explain the concepts of threat, evaluation of assets, information assets, physical, operational, and information security and how they are related.
- Evaluate network, database and operating systems security.
- Apply risk management techniques to manage risk, reduce vulnerabilities, threats, and apply appropriate safeguards/controls.

- Demonstrate an understanding of issues, current trends and legal aspects of Cyber Security
- Demonstrate an understanding of Identity and Access Control Management
- Design and guide the development of an organization's security policy.

### **No Use of Generative AI Permitted**

I assume that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San

### Required Materials:

#### ■ **TEXTBOOK(S):**

Computer Security: Principles and Practice, 4th Edition, William Stallings, Lawrie Brown, ©2018, Pearson

- **Blackboard:** Connect to <http://tamusa.blackboard.com>. You will have lecture notes, solutions to problems, multimedia materials and other supplementary materials in Blackboard.

#### ■ **Software:**

- You will need VM Workstation and/or MSDNAA software to complete class assignments. You will be able to download the installation software from the TAMU-SA MSDNAA software center. You will receive your login name and password via your Jaguar email address once your access has been activated. Additional software required for the course:
- VMware Workstation
- Kali Linux
- Wireshark
- Metasploitable2 image
- SoftEther Client or other appropriate VPN client.

- **Computer Hardware:** You will need a computer with an internet connection.

- **Time:** You are expected to spend 9 hours per week outside of class for the course. Based on the background, some student may require more time. Time spent may be longer when assignment/exams are due.

**Other Recommended / Reading Materials:** Additional reading materials are available on the course website as recommended by the instructor.

***Course Requirements every student must fulfill in order to succeed in course:***

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1. Students should check the Course Calendar, Announcements, and Messages (e-mail) systems in Blackboard on a regular basis.
2. Students should keep current with all course assignments, quizzes, and examinations.
3. If the course uses remote proctoring for exams, ensure that students schedule their exam early in the semester.
4. Students should ask questions and communicate with the instructor either online or off-line

**Grading Policy:** The final course grade will be based on your performance on the quizzes, exams, assignments and class participation using the following weights:

Course project/paper, 40-50% each.

Labs and assignments 40-50%.

Attendance : 5-10 %

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The final letter grades will be assigned as follows: Above 90%  $\Rightarrow$  A; 80 – 89%  $\Rightarrow$  B; 70 – 79%  $\Rightarrow$  C; 60 – 69%  $\Rightarrow$  D; Below 60%  $\Rightarrow$  F.

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**Homeworks and Quizzes:**

1. Please follow deadlines through BB, under no circumstance, HWs will be accepted late or through emails. HWS may have a couple of days late submission for partial grading
2. Homework assignments and labs will be available in Blackboard, and must be submitted only through BB, if you have any issues with the submission, it is your responsibility to check and follow up within the deadlines of the HW.
3. As a general rule, no make-ups will be offered for any missed exam/quiz. Make-ups may be administered only in extra-ordinary circumstances such as an excused official university activity, a severe illness, or a dire emergency. However, you must provide comprehensive documentation within a few days of the missed exam.

**Assignments/ Research papers:**

**Discussions** are due prior to the start of class on the day of class. **Discussions will not be accepted after class starts.** Discussions will be evaluated by the depth of logic and quality of support. Citations are encouraged. **Discussions are limited to 300 words.**

**Participation/Attendance:** Class attendance is expected. Attendance will be taken at each class session. Points will be added for attendance. There will be no opportunity to make up those points if you miss class.

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**Make up and Late Assignment/exam/quiz policy:** All assignments have a due date. Lab assignments will only receive full credit if they are turned in by the due date. All lab assignments are due at 11:59 on their due date. Lab assignments that are late up to 48 hours lose 30 percent of the maximum grade.

**Class conduct and civility code:** Everyone in class is expected to follow all rules in the student handbook, as well as common courtesy during classroom lectures and discussions in class and online, including the following:

1. Attendance may be taken at the beginning or the end of the class.
2. It is the students' responsibility to obtain and be able to use the required materials and software for this class.
3. Student must retain copies of all assignments and graded work for verification purposes. Keep copies of all computer files and e-mails.
4. Talking while the instructor is lecturing is extremely disruptive and discourteous to the instructor and other students.
5. Using computers or phones (except for a valid urgent need) during class for a purpose not related to class is disruptive. All cell phones and gadgets should be turned off and headphones removed.
6. For any questions about the exams and assignments, a student should contact the instructor, before the day they are due, so the instructor may have enough time to provide feedback.
7. All communications will be via e-mail communications to the Texas A&M University e-mail account, and students are expected to use their school provided email account. The

instructor will reply to a student e-mail messages and voice messages within 24 hours during week days (Monday-Friday).

8. All assignment submissions must be uploaded to Blackboard by the due

date. Anyone violating these policies may be subject to disciplinary actions.

**Class attendance and Participation:** A vital part of every student's education is regular attendance of class meetings. Any absences tend to lower the quality of a student's work, and frequent or persistent absences may result in a failing grade. Students are responsible for the materials covered in class. The course covers a lot of material and most students find at least some parts of it difficult. Class participation is highly encouraged as it makes the class more interesting and enhances the learning experience. Students are strongly encouraged to ask questions and participate in class discussions and problem solving. Good attendance and participation will be rewarded when final grades are assigned.

The course is intensive and challenging and you are expected to master the materials presented in class. The structure of the class makes your individual study and preparation outside of class extremely important. Reading the assigned chapter(s) and having some familiarity with them before class will be very useful for understanding lectures.

Attendance will be taken at each class session. Points will be added for attendance. There will be no opportunity to make up those points if you miss class.

### ***Class Schedule***

The provisions and information set forth in the schedule below are intended to be informational and not contractual in nature. The instructor reserves the right to amend, alter, change, delete or modify the provisions of the schedule.

<b><i>Week</i></b>	<b><i>Dates</i></b>	<b><i>Chapter and Topic</i></b>	<b><i>Due</i></b>
1		<b>Chapter 1 Overview</b>	
2		Chapter 2 Cryptographic Tools	
3		<b>Chapter 3 User Authentication</b>	
4		<b>Chapter 4 Access Control</b>	
5		<b>Chapter 5 Database and Data Center Security</b>	
6		<b>Chapter 6 Malicious Software</b>	
7		<b>Chapter 7 Denial-of-Service Attacks</b>	
8			
9		<b>Chapter 8 Intrusion Detection</b>	
10		<b>Chapter 9 Firewalls and Intrusion Prevention Systems</b>	
11		Chapter 10 Buffer Overflow	
12		<b>Chapter 11 Software Security</b>	
13		<b>Chapter 12 Operating System Security</b>	

14		<b>Chapter 13 Cloud and IoT Security</b>	
15		Chapter 14 IT Security Management and Risk Assessment	
16		Chapter 15 IT Security Controls, Plans and Procedures	
16		Final exam	<b>Final Exams must be held only as per Univ Schedule.</b>

**University Email Policy and Course Communications:** All correspondence between professors and students must occur via tamusa email accounts. You must have your Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at 210-784-4357.

**Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities:** The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Title II of the ADAAA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act require that students with disabilities be guaranteed equal access to the learning environment through the provision of reasonable and appropriate accommodation of their disability. If you have a diagnosed disability that may require an accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. DSS is located at the Main Campus on the 2nd floor of the Central Academic Building in suite 210. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is [dsupport@tamusa.edu](mailto:dsupport@tamusa.edu).

**Academic Learning Center :** All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. The Academic Learning Center is an appointment based center where appointments are made through the Navigate platform. Students access Navigate through Jagwire in the Student Services tab. The Center is active on campus outreaching to students to highlight services offered. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing [tutoring@tamusa.tamus.edu](mailto:tutoring@tamusa.tamus.edu) or calling (210)-784-1332. Appointments can also be made through JagWire under the services tab.

**Counseling Resources:** As a college student, there may be a time when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you or someone you know is experiencing life stressors, emotional difficulties, or mental health concerns at A&M-SA, please contact the Office of Student Counseling & Wellness Services (SC & WS) located in Modular C Room 166 (Rear entrance) or call 210-784-1331 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM. All mental health services provided by SC & WS are free, confidential (as the law allows), and are not part of a student's academic or university record. SC&WS provides brief individual, couples, and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information, please

visit [www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling](http://www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling).

In a crisis, please walk-in to the SC & WS services between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM to be seen by a licensed clinician. After hours, please contact UPD at 911 or text "HOME" to 741-741 24/7/365 to connect with a trained crisis counselor. The National Suicide Prevention hotline also offers a 24/7/365 hotline at 1-800-273-8255.

**Emergency Preparedness:** JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email and/or phone call with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>. More information about Emergency Preparedness and the Emergency Response Guide can be found here: <http://www.tamusa.edu/riskmanagement/index.html>.

**Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance:** According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

**Jaguar Writing Center:** The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing assistance to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Students can make individual or group appointments with a writing tutor. The Writing Center is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 208. Appointments can also be made through JagWire under the services tab.

**Meeting Basic Needs:** Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students ([DOS@tamusa.edu](mailto:DOS@tamusa.edu)) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources they may possess.



**Military Affairs:** Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, and special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots' Casa in-person room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at [military@tamusa.edu](mailto:military@tamusa.edu) or (210)784-1397.

**Religious Observances:** Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

**Respect for Diversity:** We understand that our students represent diverse backgrounds and perspectives. When we are equity-minded, we are aware of differences and inequalities and are willing to discuss them so we can act to resolve them. The University is committed to building cultural competencies, or the attitudes, skills, and knowledge that enable individuals and organizations to acknowledge cultural differences and incorporate these differences in working with people from diverse cultures. Respecting and accepting people different than you is vital to your success in the class, on campus, and as a future professional in the global community. While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

- Share their unique experiences, values, and beliefs.
- Be open to the views of others.
- Honor the uniqueness of their colleagues.
- Value each other's opinions and communicate respectfully.
- Keep confidential discussions that the community has of a personal (or professional) nature.
- Use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in this course and across the A&M-San Antonio community.

**Drop Policy:** You may drop the course with an automatic grade of W on or before the date listed in the academic calendar at [www.tamusa.edu](http://www.tamusa.edu). The last date to drop a course, or withdraw from the University is also indicated in the academic calendar on the university website ([www.tamusa.edu](http://www.tamusa.edu)). If you wish to drop the class, you must submit the necessary paperwork to the proper authority. Students dropping a course are subject to all conditions listed in the university catalog.

**The Six-Drop Rule:** Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to

a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

**Statement of Harassment and Discrimination:** Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality, diversity, pluralism and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

**Students' Rights and Responsibilities:** The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

*Students' Rights*

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of University Student Rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair

process.

### *Students' Responsibilities*

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and University officials.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules and to comply with them, as well as federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to maintain a level of behavior that is consistent in supporting the learning environment of the institution and to recognize the University's obligation to provide an environment for learning.

**Violations of Academic Conduct (Section 14.5 Student Handbook):** As a member in an academic community, students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education, be mature, be self-directed and be able to manage their own affairs. Students who are unwilling to abide by these basic expectations will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Students are expected to share in the responsibility and authority with faculty and staff to challenge and make known acts that violate the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Code of Conduct. For more information please visit the Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities website <http://bit.ly/TAMUSASStudentRR>.

Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, multiple submissions, collusion, lying and bribery. For more information, refer to the Student Code of Conduct, Article III: Conduct Rules and Regulations. Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty has the discretion to impose grade penalties as deemed necessary.

Faculty members are required to report such serious breaches of academic honesty to their chair, their dean and the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. In cases of academic misconduct, students may be subject not only to grade sanctions in courses but to disciplinary action. Grade

sanctions may be imposed only by faculty members, but suspension or expulsion may be imposed only by the Vice President for Student Affairs. If a student wishes to appeal the decision of suspension or expulsion due to violations of academic misconduct, they must initiate their appeal as outlined within the Student Code of Conduct. Extenuating circumstances may cause the University to deviate from the defined time frames.

All student term papers and other written assignments are subject to analysis by anti-plagiarism software. Posting of any class work given to student, or solutions, or discussion, on publicly accessible forums or on social media is not permissible.

Considering the potential consequences of academic misconduct, it is obviously in students' best interests to avoid even the appearance of such behavior. If a student is unclear whether a specific act might constitute academic misconduct, please she/he should contact the instructor for an assessment of the situation.

#### IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

<https://www.tamusa.edu/student-resources/academic-affairs/documents/Syllabus-policies-and-resources-Fall-2024-08232024.docx>