IT332: Digital Crime
Fall 2025

Instructor: Dipesh Patel
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Class: Virtual Online
Office Location: TBA
Office Hours: M 09:00 AM to 12:00 PM
(via Zoom)

Course Description:

Comprehensive, multidisciplinary overview of the methods and means by which technology is used by the criminal in today's society. An examination of the historical, legal, technological and sociological aspects of cybercrime. The course covers the challenges of a new era of technology has brought to combating crime of all types, including terrorism. Topics covered will include: the sociology of the white-collar criminal, the criminal justice system and law enforcement, computer security and deterrence/prevention.

Number of Credit Hours:

3

Prerequisite or Co-requisite:

Computing GUR

Materials Required:

Textbook:

Cyber Crime and Cyber Terrorism | 5th Edition | by Robert W. Taylor; Eric J. Fritsch; John R. Liederbach; Michael R. Saylor; William L. Tafoya | Pearson | 2024 | Print ISBN-13: 978-0-1379-5320-2 | eText ISBN-13: 978-0-1379-5327-1

Software:

1. No additional software is required

Storage:

1. Some place to store files like Flash Drive, OneDrive, Google Drive, Box, etc.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students are able to:

- Have a very good understanding about how technology could and is used to commit digital crimes.
- Understand the legal system in the US under which computer crimes could be investigated
- Have a very good understanding about methods and procedures that could be used to mitigate and prevent serious computer crimes, including digital terrorism

Course Requirements:

This course is a hybrid course integrating both classroom lecture and lab for hand-on experience.

Exams:

There are two exams. I will notify you of the exam date at least one week before the exam is given. If you miss the exam, your grade for that exam will be zero. **Makeup examinations are provided only under exceptional circumstances and the student**

has to notify me before the exam begins either by e-mail or in person that they will miss the exam.

Homework / Project Assignments:

Details of the homework assignments will be handed out or posted on Canvas. Assignments are to be submitted via Canvas. Homework assignments are to be completed individually by you. You may work in groups to complete the assignment, but each student must submit their own file. If you are having trouble with an assignment, please feel free to contact me or ask any student in the course. **Do not copy an assignment from another student and submit it as your own. If detected, all involved students' will receive a zero for the assignment and reported to the Dean's office.** Every assignment must be completed and submitted via Canvas.

Please note that the acquisition of academic work in whole or in part from any source (from textbooks and journal articles to web resources to generative AI) and the subsequent presentation of those materials as the student's own work (whether that material is paraphrased or copied in verbatim or near-verbatim form) constitutes an academic integrity violation, unless appropriately cited.

Late Assignment:

Approved assignments that are turned in late, will be subject to penalty as follows:
1. Group / Homework Assignment - 10% reduction of the grade
2. Discussion Board - 10% reduction of the grade
3. Project – 20% reduction of the grade
4. Quiz / Exam - 20% reduction of the grade

NOTE: The last day late assignments will be accepted the instructor is communicated via Canvas Announcements.

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at:

http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf

Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at *dos@njit.edu*

Class Attendance:

For *Online Virtual* class attendance will not be taken. Your attendance is directly based on performance in the course. You are required to post the Introduce Yourself video to ensure you are participating in the course.

For *in-person (face-to-face, hybrid)* class, attendance will be taken each session we meet. If you missed the class, it is your responsibility to find out about any lecture material, homework assignments and exams discussed in class. Attendance is highly correlated with good performance in the class, so attendance will be taken at each meeting.

Absences may be excused for athletics, religious holidays, illness, military obligation or family emergencies if you contact me before the missed class. Students expecting to miss classes or exams due to Religious Observances must submit a written list of dates, ideally by the end of the second week of class, but no later than two weeks before the anticipated absence. In addition, please ensure you contact the Dean of Students regarding your absence.

Typical Assignments:

Students will be assigned discussion/research topics, homework, quizzes, group project, Midterm Exam and Final Exam. Homework will be assigned based on the cases discussed in the course. Forum posts are assigned on a weekly basis. A comprehensive group project is assigned and involves a complete study of a digital crime, from the technology used to how the criminals were caught, what methods were used for surveillance, how the digital evidence was obtained and investigated, the prosecution and laws pertaining to that particular crime investigation.

Communication:

The best communication method to reach me is via email. Once you get in contact with me, I will acknowledge or respond to your inquiry within 48 hours. During weekends and holidays responses will be delayed. Please refrain from sending multiple emails of same case via different account Canvas and GMail.

In the subject line, please add:
IT332_XX: Subject

where
XX is your section number
Subject is what is your inquiry about

Warning: If you do not follow the above guideline, your message will not be replied in proper time frame.

Performance Evaluation:

The course grade would depend upon your performance on assignments and exams. The following is an allocation of weights:

Evaluation		Grading	
Attendance / Discussion / Participation	10%	A	A(90-100)
Group / Homework Assignments	10%	B	B+(85-89), B(80-84)
Quizzes	10%	C	C+(75-79), C(70-74)
Project Charter	5%	D	D (60-69)
Team Project / Presentation	15%	F	59 or less
Written Exams (Midterm and Final)	50%		

Total	100%	

Tentative Class Schedule:

Week	Lecture	Activities / Dues
1	Introduction to the Course Introduction and Overview of Cyber Crime and Cyber Terrorism	
2	Cyber Terrorism and Information Warfare	
3	The Criminology of Computer Crime	
4	Hackers	
5	Sophisticated Cyber Criminal Organizations	
6	White-Collar Crimes	
7	Viruses and Malicious Code	
8	Midterm Exam - via Canvas Sex Crimes, Victimization, and Obscenity on the World Wide Web	**Midterm Exam**
9	Anarchy and Hate on the World Wide Web	
10	Digital Laws and Legislation	
11	Law Enforcement Roles and Responses	
12	The Investigation of Computer-Related Crime	
13	Digital Forensics	
14	Information Security and Infrastructure Protection	
15	Cyber Crime and Terrorism: A Forecast of Trends and Policy Implications Presentations	**Project**
16	Written Final Exam	**Final Exam**
Note:	Chapters to cover on the indicated dates may vary according to each individual class.	

Optional Topics:

1. Crimes committed via Social Networks, including international computer crimes
2. Crimes committed via mobile phones, their legal environment and investigations