

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)



## **CSCI 351 Foundations of Information Security**

### **Fall 2024**

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Kathiravan Natarajan  
Office Location: JOUR 209  
Office Hours: Wednesday 12 PM to 5 PM  
Office Phone: N/A  
Office Fax: N/A  
University Email Address: Kathiravan.Natarajan@tamuc.edu  
Preferred Form of Communication: Email with the subject CSCI 351  
Communication Response Time: Email (1 day to 3 days)

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

#### **Textbook(s) Required**

CompTIA Security+ SY0-501 Cert Guide, Academic Edition  
ISBN-13: 9780134846057 (2017 update)

Course contents will be shared on the course web page. A textbook is beneficial but not mandatory.

#### **Software Required**

It will be communicated on the course web page.

#### **Optional Texts or Materials**

Course materials should suffice to achieve the educational goals of this course.

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## Course Description

**Student Learning Outcomes** (Should be measurable; observable; use action verbs)

1. To learn the various threats and attacks on endpoints and app development security
2. To understand the threat management and cybersecurity resources
3. To familiarize with the security issues on various devices such as mobiles, embedded hardware, and so on
4. To learn the cryptography algorithms that can help prevent the attacks on the networks
5. To learn the types of risks and the risk management strategies

### Minimal Technical Skills Needed

No prerequisites needed

### Instructional Methods

The instructor will share the course materials in documents on the course web page; based on students' requests, the instructor will explain some complex concepts via video recordings or Zoom meetings.

### Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Build a weekly habit of completing the lessons from the course materials on time every week. Practicing "practice quizzes" would help to score better in the weekly graded quizzes and the mid-term and final exams. Foundational knowledge is essential. If you have any questions or problems understanding, never wait until next week, as the instructor will explain some concepts based on the previous weeks. If some students find the materials challenging, the instructor will create study groups to revise the concepts. Work proactively on the instructor's research direction to score the maximum grade in the team research project. The instructor can help with the students' programming problems and research questions.

## GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

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F = 59% or Below

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade:

Weekly Quizzes	25%
Assignments, Case studies, and research paper reviews	25%
Two Midterm Exams	30%
Final Exam	20%
TOTAL	100%

### **Assessments**

Assessments will be conducted online, including the two midterm and final exams.

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

### **LMS**

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are the technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

## **ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

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**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all coursework in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's house, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please get in touch with your instructor.

### **Technical Support**

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, don't hesitate to get in touch with Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

### **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

#### **MAKEUP POLICY**

There will be NO makeup exams/assignments in general. However, with prior notification and valid documents, makeup chances may be given to students under extreme circumstances, such as hospitalization, serious injury, death in the family, etc. No makeup allowed for other than exams and assignments.

#### **COLLABORATION POLICY**

Students are encouraged to discuss any of the assignments with each other, to the instructor, or to anyone else. However, any assistance must be limited to discussion of the problem and sketching general approaches to a solution. Each student must write out his or her solutions to the homework. Consulting another student's or group's solution is allowed for team research project but prohibited for exams and quizzes. These and any other form of collaboration on assignments constitute cheating. If you

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have any question about whether some activity would constitute cheating, please feel free to ask.

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may require the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

### **University Specific Procedures**

#### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

#### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy, please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

#### **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholarly work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty, see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)  
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

## **Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

### **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

## **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

## **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031 et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

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For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web URL:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses—report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

### **A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health**

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### **Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content**

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## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR (Tentative)

Week	CONTENT	REFERENCE	Quizzes and Assignments
W1 (08/26)	Intro to security, Foundational topics, Malware	Chapters 1, 2	
W2 (09/04)	Implementing security apps, securing hardware, Mobile devices and peripherals	Chapter 3	Quiz 1, Assignment/Case Study 1
W3 (09/09)	OS Hardening and Virtualization, Application Security	Chapters 4, 5	Quiz 2, Assignment/Case Study 2
W4 (09/16)	Network design, NAC, VLAN, Cloud Security	Chapter 6	Quiz 3, Assignment/Case Study 3
W5 (09/23)	Midterm Test 1		
W6 (09/30)	Network protocol and threats, malicious attacks, firewalls, and network security	Chapters 7, 8	
W7 (10/07)	Securing wireless networks, Physical security, and authentication models	Chapters 9, 10	Quiz 4, Assignment/Case Study 4
W8 (10/14)	Access Control Methods and Models, RBAC, ABAC, Rights, permissions, and policies.	Chapter 11	Quiz 5, Assignment/Case Study 5
W9 (10/21)	Vulnerability and risk assessments	Chapter 12	Quiz 6
W10 (10/28)	Monitoring and auditing	Chapter 13	Quiz 7
W11 (11/04)	Encryption and hashing concepts, Cryptography algorithms,	Chapter 14	Quiz 8
W12 (11/11)	PKI, Encryption protocols, SSL certificates, Security Protocols	Chapter 15	Quiz 9, Assignment/Case Study 6
W13 (11/18)	Midterm test 2		
W14 (11/25)	Redundancy and disaster recovery, Social engineering, user education, facilities security, policies and procedures.	Chapters 16, 17	

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W15 (12/02)	Final exam preparation week		
W16 (12/09)	<i>Final Exam</i>		

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