



*Course Syllabus*  
**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY – COMMERCE**

**INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER LAW AND FORENSICS**  
**CSCI 352 FALL 2024**

<b>CLASS MEETINGS:</b> <b>Time &amp; Location:</b> Web-based, <a href="http://online.tamuc.org">http://online.tamuc.org</a>	Instructor Office Hours: By Zoom or by Appointment
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**INSTRUCTOR:**

Manar Alsaïd  
Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science  
Texas A&M University - Commerce  
e-mail: manar.alsaïd@tamuc.edu

**TEXTBOOK:**

Title: System Forensics, Investigation, and Response, 3rd Edition Author: Chuck Easttom  
Publication: 2017

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course provides an in-depth analysis use of industry tools, technologies and practices involved in gathering, protecting and analyzing digital evidence. The class uses industry tools to perform forensic analysis and examines how various operating systems store data on storage media—hard disk drives and other digital media. The course will highlight how computers are used in crimes and how this can be linked to criminal motivations to focus a digital investigation

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Summarize the basic principles of computer forensics.
2. Describe various computer crimes and how they are investigated.
3. Describe digital forensics methodology and labs.
4. Outline the proper approach to collecting, seizing, and protecting evidence.
5. Explain techniques for hiding and scrambling information as well as how data is recovered.
6. Summarize various types of digital forensics.

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*\*Tentative. All dates and content may be subject to change throughout the semester; changes will be communicated to the students in class or via Brightspace course shell announcements or via email.*

7. Explain how to perform a network analysis.
8. Describe incident and intrusion response.
9. Identify trends in and resources for digital forensics.

**COURSE OUTLINE/CONTENT:**

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Chapter Topics</b>	<b>Readings &amp; Assessments *</b>
1	Introduction to Forensics; Overview of Computer Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductions</li> <li>• Ch. 1 &amp; 2</li> </ul>
2	Forensic Methods and Labs; Trends and Future Directions; System Forensic Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 3, 14, &amp; 15</li> </ul>
3	Collecting, Seizing, and Protecting Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 4</li> </ul>
4	Understanding Techniques for Hiding and Scrambling Information; Recovering Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 5, &amp; 6</li> </ul>
5	E-mail Forensics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 7</li> <li>• HW 1</li> </ul>
6	Mid-term	
7	Windows Forensics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 8</li> </ul>
8	Linux Forensics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 9</li> </ul>
9	Macintosh Forensics; Mobile Forensics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 10, &amp; 11</li> <li>• HW 2</li> </ul>
10	Performing Network Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 12</li> </ul>
11	Incident and Intrusion Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch. 13</li> </ul>

12	Final	
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**EXAMS & GRADING:**

Assignments 20%

Discussion 40%

Final and midterm Exams (Comprehensive of all the material covered) 40%

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

**Study:** To plan a minimum of three hours of outside preparation for each hour of class is a safe time allocation for successfully completing the course.

Students are expected to go through the slides and any other uploaded material every week in BrightSpace course shell.

**BrightSpace:** You will need to activate and access your BrightSpace course shell account. Visit <http://online.tamuc.org> for details:

“If at any time you experience technical problems (e.g., you can't log in to the course, you can't see certain material, etc.) please contact the BrightSpace HelpDesk, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The HelpDesk can be reached by sending an email to [helpdesk@online.tamuc.org](mailto:helpdesk@online.tamuc.org) or by calling 1-866-656-5511”.

**Assignments:** Assignments will be given and returned via the online Brightspace system. It is very important that students follow the instructions carefully on the assignments. The assignments will be uploaded by the instructor to Brightspace course shell. The student may have to upload it to the course shell’s Dropbox by following the instructions on the assignment; or the assignments may be entirely online tests. It is the student’s responsibility to return or solve all assignments ready on time by the given due date. Late assignment may not be accepted or may be penalized and assignment may not be accepted beyond a certain time.

**Exams:** One final and one midterm exam. The exams will be delivered online on the dates indicated above.

Students will be able to view their graded lab, quiz and exam scores on BrightSpace. The students have one week to inquire about their grade after the lab/quiz/exam is done. Grades accumulated so far in the class by the students may be provided on BrightSpace to the students as a courtesy by the instructor so that the students can see where they stand gradewise; however, those grades might not be very accurate. The overall course grades are finalized after all the exams, assignments, quizzes and attendances are complete and then they are put in a spreadsheet, weighed and evaluated at the end of the semester by the instructor.

**Web-based / online class:** This is a web-based / online class. Assignments will be uploaded to BrightSpace course shell. Students are responsible for obtaining and setting up their BrightSpace account using their TAMUC student login. They need to follow the BrightSpace course shell daily for

the course announcements, downloading and uploading the assignments, and other course activities. Students also need to check their leomails daily.

***The instructor maintains the right to modify the course syllabus & policies within the semester if need arises.***

## **ETHICS**

Integrity is the hallmark of the accounting profession and will be stressed throughout the course. Any type of student breach of ethics, including, but not limited to: illegal activity, dishonest conduct, cheating, plagiarism, or collusion will result in failure on the assignment and/or further academic sanctions (i.e. failure of the course, dismissal from class and/or referral to the Dean of the College of Business).

"All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). Ethics include the issue of plagiarism, and copying parts or whole of assignments, quizzes and exams is just as serious as any other type of plagiarism. If you are caught sharing or using other people's work, you will receive a 0 grade and a warning on the first instance. A subsequent instance will result in receiving an F grade for the course, and possible disciplinary proceedings. The student who shares as well as the one who copies will both receive a 0.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY :**

Student participation will be graded by the level of class participation and attendance. Since this is a web-based / online class, the students are expected to participate in the required activities as described in the Brightspace course shell for each and every week's lecture. At the beginning of every week, reading material / lecture slides will be uploaded to course shell and the students are required to go through the assigned reading material and/or lecture slides.

Any student wishing to withdraw from the course must do so officially as outlined in the class schedule. THE INSTRUCTOR CANNOT DROP OR WITHDRAW ANY STUDENT.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENT DEADLINES:**

Credit will be given for ONLY those exam(s), program(s), and/or project(s) turned in no later than the deadline(s) as announced by the instructor of this class unless prior arrangement has been made with the instructor. Late assignments will be penalized, and the instructor may not accept late assignments after a specified period.

## **METHOD OF EVALUATION (Tentative):**

Final average Letter grade

90 – 100	A
80 – 89.99	B
70 – 79.99	C
60 – 69.99	D
Below 60	F

## 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 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).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work 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 home, 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 contact your Instructor.

#### Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

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

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### Course Specific Procedures/Policies

#### Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for 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 scholastic 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](#)

<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/>

## **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.

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.