



**Course Syllabus: CMPS 3663: Intro to Cybersecurity**  
**College of Science Mathematics and Engineering**  
**Spring Semester 2025 January 21 – May 16, 2025**

**Catalog Description:**

Selected topics from computer and network security, including identity and access, application and operating system vulnerabilities, defensive programming, software security, operating system security, cryptography, social engineering, malicious software, exploits, denial of service attacks, intrusion detection/prevention, legal issues, intrusion analysis techniques and threat modeling.

<b>Instructor:</b>	Ted Layne, M.S., CISSP, CCSP
<b>Office:</b>	Remote
<b>Office hours:</b>	Online M,W,F 10:00-12:00 or email for appointment
<b>Office Phone:</b>	None
<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:theodore.layne@msutexas.edu">theodore.layne@msutexas.edu</a>

**Required Textbook & Instructional Materials:** Computer Security: Principles & Practice, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, Stallings & Brown (REQUIRED)

**Exams and Assignments:** There will be two exams and two major projects. Programming projects will be expected to be complete and robust, including good documentation, user interfaces, and the ability to handle improper input.

**Course Evaluation:**

<b>Assignments</b> Quizzes	<b>30 pts</b>
<b>Exams</b> 2 exams, 25 pts. each	<b>50 pts</b>
<b>Projects</b> 2 projects, 10 pts. each	<b>20 pts</b>

In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, the course instructor will provide grade updates using D2L. Only final grades will be reported on the students' transcripts. Students earning below a C at midterm should discuss progress with the instructor.

**Grade scale breakdown:**

- A: 89.5 - 100
- B: 79.5 - 89.4
- C: 69.5 - 79.4
- D: 59.5 - 69.4
- F: < 59.4

**Attendance Policy:** Attending class is a primary key to success. Although student attendance is not calculated in the grade, attendance will be taken. Attendance in an online class is counted based on D2L participation and turning in assignments. If a student is absent three consecutive classes without notifying the instructor, a report will be submitted to the Dean of Students and the student may be dropped from the class. *\*There is no distinction made between excused and unexcused absences.*

***\*Technical difficulty will not be considered a valid reason for an extension on submitting online materials.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas, as well as the Academic Success Center. Contact your instructor immediately if you are having computer trouble. There is also a student help desk available to you.

**Computer Science Tutoring:** Tutors are available to assist with CS classes. Please see the [TASP](#) web page for schedules and availability.

**Late Policy:** Assignments and programs will be accepted late up to one week after the due date with a penalty per day. Work will not be accepted after one week past the deadline. Late project submission is 10% penalty per day or portion thereof.

Cheating: Unless instructed otherwise, each student is expected to write, design, code, enter, test, and validate his/her own work. To submit another's work (even partial) as your own is called plagiarism and is subject to severe action as stated in the MSU Student Handbook. **Two or more students working together to complete an individual assignment is also considered cheating.**

Students are expected to see the instructor for help on assignments, if necessary. ~~ Cheating in any form will not be tolerated.

The Department of Computer Science has adopted the following policy related to cheating (academic misconduct). The policy will be applied to all

instances of cheating on assignments and exams as determined by the instructor of the course.

- 1st instance of cheating in a course: The student will be assigned a non-replaceable grade of zero for the assignment, project, or exam. In addition, the student will receive a one-letter grade reduction in the course if the grade doesn't result in a grade reduction.
- 2nd instance of cheating in a course: The student will receive a grade of F in the course & immediately be removed from the course.
- All instances of cheating will be reported to the Department Chair and, in the case of graduate students, to the Department Graduate Coordinator.

See the [MSU Student Handbook](#) for more information on the academic misconduct policy.

**Students with Disabilities:** Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements. Students must present appropriate verification from the University's Disability Support Services (DSS) Office during the instructor's office hours. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation(s) to a student until appropriate verification from DSS has been provided. For additional information, contact the Disability Support Office in Clark Student Center 168. Phone: (940) 397-4140.

**Recording of Class Lectures:** Recordings (or any class materials) may NOT be posted on any internet source without the instructor's written permission. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in removal from the course with an F grade or other appropriate punishment.

**Testing Process:** The Department of Computer Science has adopted the following policy related to testing:

- All bags, purses, electronics (turned off), books, etc. will be placed in the front of the room during exams, or in an area designated by the instructor.
- Unless otherwise announced by the instructor, nothing is allowed on the desk but pen/pencil/eraser and test papers.
- No student is allowed to leave the room during an exam and return

**Counseling Center:** MSU offers personal, group, career, and academic counseling. Students are encouraged to take advantage of these free services by contacting the Counseling Center:  
Corner of Hampstead and Louis J. Rodriguez Drive, 397-4618,  
[counseling@mwsu.edu](mailto:counseling@mwsu.edu).

**Campus Carry:** Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are

appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to information on the university's webpage.

**Important Dates:** MSU Registrar's [Important Dates](#)

**Helpful Information:** [Student Resources](#)