Course Syllabus: Intro to Computer & Network Security
Department of Computer Science,
McCoy College of Science, Mathematics & Engineering
CMPS 3663 Section X20
Spring 2026 January 20 - May 15, 2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Lopamudra Roychoudhuri, PhD
Office: Bolin 124D
Office hours (in office): MTWRF 2:00-3:00 pm
Office phone: (940) 397-4191
E-mail: Lopamudra.roychoudhuri@msutexas.edu
Classroom: Online

Course Description

Selected topics from computer and network security, including applications vulnerabilities and weaknesses, malicious code attacks, cyber warfare, intrusion detection, data protection, cryptography, and user authentication.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course, students will have the ability to:
1. Discuss threats to computers and networks,
2. Demonstrate understanding of network security terminology and concepts,
3. Demonstrate understanding of security technology and devices needed for security defense,
4. Discuss current ethical issues involved in network and computer security.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Computer Security: Principles & Practice, 5th edition, Stallings & Brown.
Print (paperback): ISBN-13: 9780138091675 – link.
eBook: ISBN-13: 9780138091712 –Lifetime: link, 6-month Rental: link.

Grading

Table 1: Course Grade

Grading Criteria	Dates	Weights	Objectives Assessed
Quizzes	Weekly	20%	1-4
Assignments (Short essays, Discussion Board)	Weekly/biweekly	30%	1-4
Midterm Exam	7th week	20%	1-4
Final Exam	16th week	30%	1-4

Table 2: Grading Criteria

Grade	Percentage
A	90 or above
B	80 to 89
C	70 to 79
D	60 to 69
F	Less than 60

Table 3 Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Starting	Topics
1	1/20	Introduction; Module 1: Overview of Computer and Network Security – Food for thought
2	1/26	Module 1 cont. – Offensive Security
3	2/2	Module 1 cont. – Defensive Security; Module 2: Security Management
4	2/9	Module 2 cont.
5	2/16	Module 3: Malicious Software
6	2/23	Module 3 cont.
7	3/2	Review, **Midterm Exam**
	3/9	**Spring Break**
8	3/16	Module 4: Defense against Attacks – Countermeasures, Intrusion Detection
9	3/23	Module 4 cont. – Firewalls and Intrusion Prevention
10	3/30	Module 4 cont. – Physical and Infrastructure Security
11	4/6	Module 5: Security Techniques - Cryptography
12	4/13	Module 5 cont.
13	4/20	Module 6: Security Techniques – User Authentication and Access Control
14	4/27	Module 6 cont.
15	5/4	Review
16	5/11	**Final Exam**

Class Policies

Posted Study Material

Readings from the textbook and/or other sources will be announced every week. PowerPoints and videos will be posted as well. We will work on many kinds of assignments based on this material.

Assignments

These fall under following categories.

Quizzes: We will work on D2L quizzes that will be based on the posted study material. The grade from the quizzes will constitute 20% of the total assignment grade.

Discussion Forums: Discussion topics will be posted every other week covering topics from the posted study material. You will write comprehensive, insightful and reflective comments on the question of the week that will be graded. The grade from the discussion board postings will constitute 15% of the total grade.

Short Essays: Short essay topics will be posted every other week covering topics from the posted study material. You will write comprehensive, well-researched, insightful and reflective one-page essay on the question of the week. The grade from these assignments will constitute 15% of the total grade.

<u>Exams</u>

We will have two exams – Midterm and Final. ***These exams will be held in class on campus*.
All students must come to campus to take both exams at the scheduled times.** The dates, times and venue will be announced later.

For planned absences: Exam may be taken early by prior arrangement.
For unplanned absences: Students need a valid university excuse (e.g., excuse from the doctor, death in the immediate family, etc.). The missed exam will be replaced with the final exam grade.

The final exam must be taken on its assigned date and time.

General Policies

<u>Computer Requirements</u>
Taking this class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to access online course material. Personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered a reason for extra time submitting assignments, tests, or online discussion postings. Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings. There is also a computer lab in Clark Student Center that is open 24/7, and a lab in Moffett Library that is open during library hours.
Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student help desk available to you. The university cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations; however, they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into D2L.

<u>Desire-to-Learn (D2L)</u>
Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into D2L through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

<u>Assignment Submission Policy</u>
All assignments must be submitted to D2L containing the student's name, course name, the title of the assignment, the due date and the date the assignment was turned in. ***No e-mail or in-person submission is accepted*. *No late assignment will be accepted*.** There are no exceptions to this rule.

<u>Attendance Policy</u>
Attendance is mandatory (no excused absences). Roll will be taken from the participation date on D2L and assignment submission. **Anyone missing more than a total of 4 weeks will get an automatic F**. If a student is absent more than 2 weeks straight without an excuse and is not performing well in class, a report will be submitted to the Dean of Students and the student may be dropped from the class.

<u>Policy on Testing Process</u>
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.
· A student who leaves the room during an exam must turn in the test and will not be allowed to return.

<u>Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures</u>

Academic misconduct is cheating, collusion, and plagiarism: it is the act of using either published or unpublished source material of other students, persons, or generative AI (unless there are instructions that allow it) that do not follow accepted techniques of crediting. The Department of Computer Science has adopted the following policy related to academic misconduct. The policy will be applied to all submission of work for credit as determined by the instructor of the course, e.g., assignments, quizzes, and exams. (See below for link to MSU definitions.)

- 1st instance of cheating in the program: The student will be assigned a non-replaceable grade of zero for the assignment, project, or exam. If the final grade in the course does not result in a one letter grade reduction, the student will receive a one letter grade reduction in course.
- Further instances of cheating in any course within the program: The student will receive a grade of F in the course & be removed from the course.
- All instances of cheating will be reported to the Department Chair, the MCOSME Dean, the Dean of Graduate Students, if a graduate student, and the Office of Rights and Responsibilities, who may decide at their own discretion to impose a stiffer sanction based on knowledge of other instances of cheating at MSU Texas.

Note: Letting a student look at your work is collusion and is academic misconduct!

Also see MSU Student Handbook: page 66: Academic Dishonesty Policy & Procedures.

University Policies and Procedures

<u>Change of Schedule</u>

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester is eligible for a100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

<u>Refund and Repayment Policy</u>

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. Two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

<u>Student with Disabilities</u>

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. Students should present appropriate verification from Disability Support Office during the instructor's office hours. Please note instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification has been provided. For additional information, contact the Disability Support Office in Clark Student Center 168 - Phone: (940) 397-4140. For more details, please go to Disability Support Services.

<u>Policy on Concealed Handguns on Campus</u>

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Please note, open carry of handguns, whether licensed or not, and the carrying of all other firearms, whether open or concealed, are prohibited on campus. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at MSU Campus Carry Policy. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Interim MSU Chief of Police at steven.callarman@msutexas.edu.

Midterm Progress Report

To help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, the instructor for this class will provide a Midterm Progress Report for all students in the course. Midterm grades will not be reported on the students' transcript; nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. They simply give students an idea of where they stand at the midpoint of the semester. Students earning below a C at the midway point should a) schedule a meeting with the professor and b) seek out tutoring.

Inclement Weather

In the event of a university closure due to bad weather, please check your email and D2L announcement.

Important Dates

Visit [MSU's Registrar's website](#) Important Dates.

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog.](#)

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.