CSE 4380/ 5380: Information Security I  
Spring 2021

Instructor Information

Instructor: Shirin Nilizadeh  
Office Number: ERB 530  
Email Address: shirin.nilizadeh@uta.edu  
Faculty Profile: http://crystal.uta.edu/~shirin/  
Office Hours: Thursdays 9-10:30 am

Course Information

Section Information: CSE 4380, Section 004 and CSE 5380, Section 004  
Time of Class Meetings: Thur. 11:00- 1:50 PM  
Place of Class Meetings: Virtually on Microsoft Teams

Microsoft Teams meeting  
Join on your computer or mobile app  
Click here to join the meeting  
Or call in (audio only)  
+1 817-502-2418,,873307789# United States, Fort Worth  
Phone Conference ID: 873 307 789#

Lab Information

Lab Section Information: CSE 4380/5380, Section 005  
Time of Class Meetings: Tu. 11:00- 1:50 PM  
Place of Lab Meetings:  
Lab 1: Virtually on Microsoft Teams  
Other Labs are Take-home Labs, i.e., no meeting, and exercises are done by students at home.

GTA Information

GTA: Sayak Saha Roy  
GTA Email Address: sayak.saharoy@mavs.uta.edu  
Office Number: Student Office Hours Channel in Microsoft Teams  
Office Hours: Mondays 2-4pm
Course Description

Description of Course Content:
This is the hands-on introduction to the basics of security for upper-level undergraduate students and graduate students. Includes system security, buffer overflows, a high-level overview of cryptography, firewalls and intrusion detection/prevention, malware, penetration testing, forensics, and system administration.

Student Learning Outcomes:
- Use cryptographic primitives directly in order to understand their respective uses and how they work together to provide security.
- Develop simple malware in order to understand hooking and how hooking can be subverted for malicious purposes.
- Set up and use defensive and security testing technologies in the network and operating system in order to see how they defend against attacks.
- Exploit software vulnerabilities in order to understand how they work and how defenses could stop them.
- Study a range of concepts to gain a broad understanding of the field of information security.
- Apply class knowledge in a capture-the-flag simulation exercise at the end of the semester.

Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:
- In addition to the textbook, each week the instructor may provide some papers and articles.

Technology Requirements
The course holds synchronous on Microsoft Teams. All students are added to the Team. Please contact the TA if you are not added. You should submit your assignments on Canvas. The exams will be online, and Respondus Lockdown will be used for proctoring.

Grading Information

Grading:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams (2 online)</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Exercises (4 labs)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labs 1 &amp; 3 worth 5%, Labs 2 &amp; 4 are worth 10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Grades for the exam will be curved by the instructor and scaled to a standard A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79 scale. Final grades will simply be the weighted average of the scores, based on the percentages shown above. Small amounts of extra credit may be available, but only on a class-wide basis (no individual requests will be granted). No grade bumps will be offered; 89.99 is a B in this class.

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester which Canvas facilitates and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels; see “Student Support Services,” below.

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study: Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least additional 9 hours per week.

Make-up Exams: Make-ups for graded activities may be arranged if your absence is caused by illness or personal emergency. A written explanation (including supporting documentation) must be submitted to your
instructor; if the explanation is acceptable, an alternative to the graded activity will be arranged. Make-up arrangements must be arranged prior to the scheduled due date.

**Grace periods:** To accommodate for unavoidable circumstances, you will be given two 3-day grace period for your assignments (3 days for each). Beyond the deadline (and grace period if applicable), you will be penalized 25% a day. For example, if you score 73% and are 5 minutes late, you will be penalized 25% for 1 day, resulting in a score of $73 - 25 = 48\%$). Use these freebies wisely — they are meant for circumstances such as falling ill or interviewing. I will not grant any additional extensions.

**Attendance:**
At the University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator of student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I will be grading attendance based on your participation in each lecture. When attending the class, you should have your CAMERA ON and your microphone MUTE. Also, in every class period, you will learn by actively participating in the process of solving problems and working in small groups. Missing class, therefore, means missing out on learning opportunities that cannot be gained from the textbook. However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients “begin attendance in a course.” UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report must the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Canvas. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

**Lab Attendance and Completion:** Attendance to your assigned virtual lab section during lab 1 is mandatory. Other lab exercises will take place at home.

**Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:**

- **Presentations:** Students will give a 10-minutes brief presentation in class to talk about a couple of recent security vulnerabilities or defenses related to the class’s topic in that week. The instructor arranges the date for each student.

- **Labs:** There will be one virtual lab (Lab 1) and three take-home labs in this semester. Students will learn how attacks operate and how to defend against them. For each experiment, students need to submit an experiment report and answer several questions.

  - Lab 1: Cryptography: Feb. 23
  - Lab 2: User, system, network security: Feb 25 – March 14
  - Lab 3: Buffer overflows: April 13 -- April 21
  - Lab 4: Security testing software: April 20 --May 4

- **Assignments:** There will be 4 assignments through the semester. The questions will be released on the day of class. See detailed schedule in the Course Schedule table.

- **Exam 1:** online, Thursday March 25
  Covers everything discussed up to and including Week 8

- **Exam 2:** online, April 29
  Comprehensive; focus on Buffer Overflows and Web Security

- **Quiz:** (Information Assurance Education Certificate, NOT included in the grading)
  The quiz covers administrative issues in securing networks.
# Course Schedule (Subject to Change)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Class Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 1    | Jan. 21     | Class overview, motivation and overview of computer security  
Cryptography: symmetric encryption |   |   |
| 2    | Jan. 28     | Cryptography: symmetric encryption and Message Authentication and Hash Functions |   |   |
| 3    | Feb. 4      | Cryptography: Public-Key Encryption and Homomorphic Encryption | HW1 | Feb. 8 |
| 4    | Feb. 11     | User Authentication |   |   |
| 5    | Feb. 18     | Canceled |   |   |
| 6    | Feb. 25     | Access Control | HW2 Lab 1 (Virtually) | March 1 Feb 23 |
| 7    | March 4     | Internet vulnerability: Denial-of-Service Attacks  
Securing the Internet: firewalls, intrusion detection systems | Lab 2 (Take home) | Feb 25 – March 14 |
| 8    | March 11    | Securing the Internet: firewalls, intrusion detection systems + Exam Review |   |   |
| 9    | March 18    | Spring break |   |   |
| 10   | March 25    | EXAM 1 | HW 3 | March 31 |
| 11   | April 1     | Internet vulnerability: malware, viruses, worms | HW 4 | April 14 |
| 12   | April 8     | Software security: Memory architecture  
+ buffer overflow |   |   |
| 13   | April 15    | Defense for buffer overflow, + common attacks | Lab 3 (Take home) | April 13 -- April 21 |
| 14   | April 22    | Web Security: Injection Attacks + Exam Review | Lab 4 (Take home) | April 20 -- May 4 |
| 15   | April 29    | Exam 2 and Quiz (Information Assurance Education Certificate) |   |   |

As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. — Shirin Nilizadeh

## Institution Information

UTA students are encouraged to review the below institutional policies and informational sections and reach out to the specific office with any questions. To view this institutional information, please visit the [Institutional Information](http://www.uta.edu/provost/administrative-forms/course-syllabus/index.php) page which includes the following policies among others:

- Drop Policy
Mandatory Face Covering Policy
All students and instructional staff are required to wear facial coverings while they are on campus, inside buildings and classrooms. Students that fail to comply with the facial covering requirement will be asked to leave the class session. If students need masks, they may obtain them at the Central Library, the E.H. Hereford University Center’s front desk or in their department. Students who refuse to wear a facial covering in class will be asked to leave the session by the instructor, and, if the student refuses to leave, they may be reported to UTA’s Office of Student Conduct.

Emergency Exit Procedures:
Should we experience an emergency event that requires evacuation of the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, do not take an elevator but use the stairwells instead. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

Student Success Programs:
UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring by appointment, drop-in tutoring, etutoring, supplemental instruction, mentoring (time management, study skills, etc.), success coaching, TRIO Student Support Services, and student success workshops. For additional information, please email resources@uta.edu, or view the Maverick Resources website.

The IDEAS Center (https://www.uta.edu/ideas/) (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers FREE tutoring and mentoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. Students can drop in or check the schedule of available peer tutors at www.uta.edu/IDEAS, or call (817) 272-6593.

The English Writing Center (411LIBR):
[Optional.] The Writing Center offers FREE tutoring in 15-, 30-, 45-, and 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Register and make appointments online at the Writing Center (https://uta.mwyconline.com). Classroom visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students and faculty are also available. Please see Writing Center: OWL for detailed information on all our programs and services.

Librarian to Contact:
Each academic unit has access to Librarians by Academic Subject that can assist students with research projects, tutorials on plagiarism and citation references as well as support with databases and course reserves.

Emergency Phone Numbers
In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at 817-272-3003 (non-campus phone), 2-3003 (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381