

Course Syllabus

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ISMN 6730- Security and Information Assurance

Dr. Atiya Avery

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COURSE INFORMATION

Contact Information:

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Availability/Office Hours: By mutual appointment via e-meeting or in-person.

This course will be in person and managed through the Canvas learning management system. We will meet in Horton-Hardgrave Hall 2017 (2nd Floor) on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00 pm-3:15 pm for in-person meetings.

Course Objectives

This course covers computer security and information assurance fundamentals from a management perspective. The student will be exposed to security and information assurance topics such as security policies, confidentiality, and ethics.

Organization of Course/Instructional Methods:

The course will be taught using multiple instructional methods. The course meeting dates will be denoted on the syllabus. You can expect to spend on average 3-9 hours a week on work in this course which is typical of IT courses. Depending on your background, motivation, and what we are working on, this may vary significantly between students and each week. Please be sure to manage expectations and allocate the appropriate amount of time needed for your success. The instructor reserves the right to modify course due dates and deliverables. These may be subject to change based on course pace and in the class's best interest.

Course Materials:

Textbooks:

Management of Information Security (6th Edition) by Whitman, Michael, and Mattord, Herb, 2018, ISBN 10: 133740571X, ISBN 13: 978-1337405713

Important Course Dates:

This course has four due dates corresponding to the four primary modules. All assignments within that module need to be submitted by the due dates. It is crucial that you keep the suggested pace of the assignments in this course. No late assignments will be accepted under any circumstances, including last-minute technical difficulties. Please get in last-minute questions 24 hours or more prior to the module deadline. Questions are answered in the order that they are received. Once the due date has passed, the assignment submission for the module will be closed. It is vital that you manage your time in this course and not work on the module at the last minute. It takes time to work through each assignment in the module.

In-Person Instruction Dates

January 11th, 2023

January 17th and January 19th, 2023

January 24th and January 26th, 2023 (Virtual, Do Not Come In)

January 31st and February 2nd, 2023

February 7th (Exam 1) and February 9th, 2023

February 14th and February 16th, 2023

February 21st and February 23rd, 2023

February 28th and March 2nd, 2023 (Exam 2)

March 7th and 9th, 2023 (Spring Break, No Class, Do Not Come In)

March 14th and March 16th, 2023

March 21st and March 23rd, 2023

March 28th and March 30th, 2023

April 4th (Exam 3) and April 6th, 2023

April 11th and April 13th, 2023

April 18th and April 20th, 2023

April 25th and April 27th, 2023 (Exam 4)

Exam Dates

Exam 1: February 7th

Exam 2: March 2nd (Midterm)

Exam 3: April 4th

Exam 4: April 27th (Final Exam)

Module Dates

Module 1- SIA Foundations -Expected Completion February 7th, 2023

Module 2- SIA Policies, Functions, & Risk Management - Expected Completion March 2nd, 2023

Module 3- SIA Risk Control, Management Models, & Compliance Standards - Expected Completion April 4th, 2023

Module 4- SIA Contingency Planning & Certification of People and Systems - Expected Completion April 27th, 2023

1. An understanding of the critical characteristics of information security, the relationship between information security and the legal and regulatory environment, and the role of information security governance and planning in an organization.
2. An understanding of how information security policies are developed, implemented, and maintained, organizational approaches to information security, the functional components of an information security program, and risk management techniques to identify and prioritize risk factors for information assets.
3. An understanding of how to identify risk control classification categories using existing conceptual frameworks, components of dominant information security management models such as NIST, ISO, and specialized information security research models, and lastly, the fundamentals and emerging trends of information security management best practices.
4. An understanding of the major components of contingency planning, information security professional and systems certifications, personnel management, and technical controls.
5. A comprehensive understanding of the professional cybersecurity landscape.

[Additional Course Requirements:](#)

There may be deliverables in this course that will require students to develop diagrams, conceptual models, figures, and illustrations. It is acceptable to submit PDFs or embedded picture images of clear and very neat, handwritten diagrams, conceptual models, and figures on graph, whitepaper, or notebook paper. Alternately, software packages such as **Visio (<https://products.office.com/en-us/visio/flowchart-software>)** and **Draw.io (<https://www.draw.io/>)** can also be used. **Draw.io (<https://www.draw.io/>)** is free and is a tool that I frequently use, and it will be used in this course.

There may be deliverables in this course that will require students to provide feedback on the work of other students as well as complete worksheets such as rubrics and checklists. To better facilitate this, students are encouraged to download a PDF editor of their choice and learn how to use it, including merging multiple documents as a single file. Two recommendations include FOXIT and Adobe Reader.

Some deliverables in this course may require students to record visual presentations. Please ensure that you are familiar with the features of Microsoft PowerPoint, know how to use Prezi (or any other software of your choice), or have some other methods to create video presentations.

Lastly, some deliverables in this course require that the documents be submitted in a formal executive report or executive presentation format, including a cover page. Please conduct an internet search to see examples of what this may look like and choose a style or template that best fits you.

COURSE DELIVERABLES & ASSIGNMENTS

Evaluation and Grading:

Students will be evaluated based on four-course exams, professional development and engagement activities, and a standards project. Additional details on these assignments are located in this syllabus and will be posted to Canvas. Please refer to Canvas for the latest information on course deliverables. Grading for the course is cumulative (per assignment) and is as follows:

Exam 1: 15%

Exam 2: 15%

Exam 3: 15%

Exam 4: 15%

Professional Development & Engagement: 20%

Standards Project: 20%

The following grading scale will apply to the final course grade:

A = 90%–100%

B = 78%–89%

C = 65%–77%

D = 50%–64%

F = 0%–49%

Deliverable Descriptions:

Review Textbook & Lecture Notes

The expectation is that students read the corresponding chapter for a lecture prior to the start of class and be prepared with any questions that they may have. Communication via reading and writing has persisted for thousands of years and is arguably the most efficient means for humans to acquire and transmit knowledge.

Comprehensive Exams

Exams for the graduate sections are open book, open note, optional group and multiple choice/short answer format. Before each exam, there will be a detailed exam review that goes over the exam in great detail. Please be sure to attend the exam review for optimal results on the exam. Exams are partially cumulative, with approximately 25% of an exam (after the first) being material from previous exams. The exams are directly based on the required textbook and class lectures. There will be no makeup exams, and missed exams will receive a 0.

Professional Development & Engagement

Students are expected to engage in information security, assurance, and cybersecurity-related professional development activities throughout the duration of this course. A cyber college course taken for credit is important but of equal importance in the tech space is that students have a comprehensive understanding of what this space looks like in the real world and how the course concepts are connected to the real world. Students must complete at least two professional development and engagement activities per module. Students can complete a professional development and engagement category up to two times. The deliverable for most activities consists of a video presentation for the benefit of the class posted to the discussion board. Specific details of discussion points will be provided on the course assignment page. Note that some activities will be worth more than others, and some activities can be done as a group. Students can discuss past activities for credit, but please ensure the information is current. Certain activities will require an instructor review of the material prior to delivering it to any members of the general public. Some leads will be provided on the professional development & engagement assignment page, but students are expected to research and explore opportunities on their own. Please give yourself plenty of time to complete the activities and, most importantly, have fun! Categories of professional development and engagement activities are listed in the table below:

Join a Professional Association	Book Review	TV Show Review	Movie/Documentary Review
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Informational Interview with Aspirational Professional	Review a Certification and Devise a Step-by-Step Study Plan	Present a complete job market analysis for a specific occupational role	Attend a Conference, Seminar, Workshop, or Guest Speaker Event
Complete Self-Study Courses and Badges <i>(prior review required)</i>	K-12 Security/Online Safety Presentation <i>(prior review required/optional group)</i>	Senior Citizens Security/Online Safety Presentation <i>(prior review required/optional group)</i>	General Adult (Peer/Family/Friends) Security/Online Safety Presentation <i>(prior review required/optional group)</i>

Standards Project

In the information security, assurance, and cybersecurity space, arguably more important than technical proficiencies are the awareness and understanding of industry standards. A very wise woman that I know once shared that the understanding of industry standards in this space is the only education that one needs. Furthermore, an understanding of industry standards is the hallmark of many highly nationally ranked graduate cybersecurity programs. In this course, students will review assigned standards within each module, briefly summarize, compare and contrast the assigned standards and then develop a working framework, conceptual map, or mind map integrating the standards in a way that is easy to understand, readily accessible and handy to laypersons as well as experts. This document should be no larger than 2 pages per module (e.g., at the end of Module 3, students should not have a document more than 6 pages long). Students will build on to this document as the semester progresses, with the final deliverable culminating in a video presentation reviewing the document created. This is an optional group project of up to 3 students. Additional details for this project will be posted on the "Standards Project" assignment page.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Academic Honesty:

All portions of the Auburn University student academic honesty code (Title XII) found in the AU Office of Provost website will apply to university courses. All academic honesty violations or alleged violations of the SGA Code of Laws will be reported to the Office of the Provost, which will then refer the case to the Academic Honesty Committee.

Contingency Plan:

If normal class activities are disrupted due to illness, emergency, or crisis (such as a local or global pandemic), the syllabus and other course plans and assignments may be modified to allow completion of the course. If this occurs, an addendum to your syllabus and/or course assignments will replace the original materials. Students will be expected to actively seek information on how the course will continue.

Special Accommodations Due to Disabilities:

Students who need special accommodations, as provided for by the American with Disabilities Act, should make an appointment as soon as possible with the faculty member to discuss their accommodation memo. It is essential that the faculty member be aware of necessary accommodations at the beginning of the course. The student must bring a copy of his/her Accommodation Letter and an Instructor Verification Form to the meeting. If the student does not have these forms but needs special accommodations, he/she should contact the Program for Students with Disabilities, 1288 Haley Center, 334-844-2096 (V/TT).

Other Notes:

1. This syllabus is subject to change with prior notice based upon the pace and needs of the class and other unforeseen circumstances. Any change or other information about the class will be announced during or on Canvas.
2. No cell phone communication during class. If you must text message, take/make a phone call, or check Facebook, please step out in the hallway. Cell phones may be used briefly to Google the definition of a word, the calculator function, and class-related activities only.
3. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that they are officially enrolled in the class and maintain that status. Being a member of the Canvas list does not imply or guarantee that one is officially enrolled in the class.
4. If you need help with course content, materials, or projects, let me know as soon as possible. See me during office hours or send me an email. Auburn University is committed to your academic success and offers many resources to assist you.
5. The norm for higher education is that each hour of class meeting time requires that you spend a minimum of 3 hours per hour of class time reading and reviewing course-related material. For IT-related courses, it can be higher.
6. Class meetings should be treated as business appointments. Be on time and prepared to contribute to class discussion.
7. The best way to communicate with me is through email. Typically, you can expect a response within 24 hours. Multiple emails to get a faster reply will NOT work. While sending an email, your subject should have the following (SUBJECT: IS – COURSE -SECTION), or else I cannot guarantee that I have received or read your email. This applies even if you email through Canvas.