

Northeastern University College of Professional Studies Course Syllabus

ITC6300 Foundations of Information Security Management

Fall 2009, 6 week term A

September 14, 2009 – October 25, 2009

Instructor Name: Evan Wheeler

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Required Text:

Information Assurance: Managing Organizational IT Risks (1st Edition); Boyce; Butterworth-Heinemann; ISBN 0750673273

In addition to the text listed above, this course contains audio material and in some instances, you may be asked to participate in audio-based activities, such as a Voice Discussion Board. A headset (headphones plus microphone) will allow you to hear and record audio. The Logitech ClearChat Comfort USB Headset, or the Plantronics Audio 470 or 500, or comparable brands/models, are recommended. Headsets can be purchased from online vendors such as amazon.com, bestbuy.com, or newegg.com.

Course Prerequisites

None

Course Description

Provides a conceptual overview of information security management and information assurance (IA). Topics covered at an introductory level include information security and information assurance principles, information technology security issues, and security technologies and processes. Governance issues include policy, law, ethics, standards, as well as organizational models and communications. Risk management issues include risk assessment, threats, vulnerabilities, and security life-cycle management.

Course Outcomes

Students will have the opportunity to become conversant with the core principles of Information Security and learn how these principles guide the implementation of policies and practices intended to ensure the availability, confidentiality, integrity and accountability of information.

Course Methodology

Each week, you will be expected to:

1. Review the week's learning objectives
2. Complete all assigned readings

3. Complete all lecture materials for the week
4. Participate in the Discussion Board
5. Complete and submit all assignments and tests by the due dates

Each week I will post current events in the Information Security field to the “Security News” discussion board. I encourage you to read these articles and new items to better understand the latest developments in the field.

Grading/Evaluation Standards

Grades will be based on the following:

- Discussion Participation – 40% (100 pts.)
- Quizzes – 20% (50 pts.)
- Final Exam – 40% (100 pts.)
- Extra Credit – equal to 1 quiz (10 pts.)

Student written work should be clear, comprehensible, and competently produced with no assistance from third parties. A discussion of Northeastern University grading standards and policies may be found in the CPS Student Handbook, which may be downloaded at: <http://www.cps.neu.edu/student-services/student-handbook>.

Participation/Discussion Board (100 pts.)

In an online course like this it is essential for students to participate in the online discussions. Therefore, rather than requiring a bunch of assignments to be turned in directly to me, I will post discussion questions and require students to post their own discussions. This way everyone can benefit from the ideas of their fellow students. Participation on the online discussions makes up a significant percentage of your overall grade, so please take it seriously.

- Each week students must respond to all of the discussion questions that I post (I will usually put 1 – 2 questions). There will be no instructor questions in Week 6.
- Starting on Week 2, two students will also be required to post three discussion questions of their own, and to facilitate the ensuing discussions to keep them flowing and focused
- Students who aren't responsible for leading the discussion that week must respond to at least 2 questions from each student leader (total of 4 responses to student posts, plus responses to each of the weekly instructor discussion questions)
- For student discussion leaders, your three questions must be posted by Tuesday at 6:00pm to give other students plenty of time to respond by the end of the week
- Even when you are the student leader for the week, you are still responsible to respond to all the questions posted by the instructor, and other student leader (if applicable)
- Participation in the weekly class discussion accounts for 40% of the total course grade

Here is a break down of the points:

- Responding to instructor discussion questions – 30 pts. (6 pts. per week for 5 weeks)
- Responding to student leaders – 30 pts. (6 pts. per week for 5 weeks)
- Facilitating the discussion as a student leader – 40 pts.

Weekly Quizzes (50 pts.)

Weekly quizzes are designed to assess your comprehension of the readings, lecture slides, and any additional course materials (such as videos, webcasts, etc.).

- A multiple choice quiz will be assigned for each of the first five weeks. These quizzes are taken online and may be found in the weekly agenda in the 'Assignments' section.
- Weekly quizzes account for 20% (or 10 points each) of the total course grade
- Quizzes must be completed no later than Friday night of each week. For avoidance of doubt, quizzes may no longer be submitted beginning Saturday morning at 12:00am.
- Students may not refer to course materials or collaborate with other students while taking quizzes

Final Exam (100 pts.)

The final exam will be a comprehensive assessment of all the topics covered during this course. The questions will focus on similar topics as the weekly quizzes, but the questions will not be identical.

- There will be a final exam which is included as a part of the Week 6 assignment. There will be no quiz for Week 6.
- The final exam will be taken online and consists of about 50 multiple choice, matching, and true/false questions
- The final exam accounts for 40% of the total course grade
- The final exam must be completed no later than Friday night of Week 6, and must be completed and submitted before Saturday October 25th at 12:00am
- Students may not refer to course materials or collaborate with other students while taking the final exam

Communication/Submission of Work

In the Assignments folder, click on the View/Complete Assignment link to view each assignment. Attach your completed assignments here and click Submit to turn them in to me. Once your assignment has been graded, you will be able to view the grade and feedback I have provided by clicking on Tools, View Grades from the Northeastern University Online Campus tab.

Class Schedule / Topical Outline

Week	Dates	Topic	Assignments
1	9/14 – 9/20	Ch. 1 - IA and the Organization Ch. 2 - Basic Security Concepts & Principles and Strategy Ch. 3 - Determining the Organization's IA Baseline	Read Chapters 1-3 Read Lecture Slides for Ch. 1-3 Answer Discussion Questions Complete Quiz 1

2	9/21 – 9/27	Ch. 4 - Determining IT Security Priorities Ch. 5 – The Organization's IA Posture	Read Chapters 4-5 Read Lecture Slides for Ch. 4-5 Answer Discussion Questions Complete Quiz 2
3	9/28 – 10/4	Ch. 6 - IA Policies Ch. 7 – IA Management Ch. 8 – IA Architecture	Read Chapters 6-8 Read Lecture Slides for Ch. 6-8 Answer Discussion Questions Complete Quiz 3
4	10/5 – 10/11	Ch. 9 – Operational Security Administration Ch. 10 – Configuration Management Ch. 11 – Life-Cycle Security	Read Chapters 9-11 Read Lecture Slides for Ch. 9-11 Answer Discussion Questions Complete Quiz 4
5	10/12 – 10/18	Ch. 12 – Contingency Planning Ch. 13 – Education, Training & Awareness Ch. 14 – Policy Compliance Oversight	Read Chapters 12-14 Read Lecture Slides for Ch. 12-14 Answer Discussion Questions Complete Quiz 5
6	10/19 – 10/25	Ch. 15 – IA Incident Response Ch. 16 – IA Reporting	Read Chapters 15-16 Read Lecture Slides for Ch. 15-16 Answer Discussion Questions Complete Final Exam by 12am EST, October 25, 2009

Other Important Things to Know

You are expected to participate in a good amount of discussion in this course. The rules for this are as follows:

1. You will treat one another, and me, with respect at all times – there are no exceptions to this rule!
2. There are no stupid arguments, just ones you disagree with. Therefore, if you disagree with an argument presented, refer to rule #1 before you respond to it.
3. It is no fun to talk while other people are talking – this goes for me as well as your fellow
4. classmates. Again, please refer to rule #1 before leaning over to speak to your neighbor while someone else is trying to lead class.
5. Discussions are more fun when you actually have an opinion – please come in ready to share yours with the class.
6. Please turn the ringers off on all phones. If you need to take a call during class time, please step outside to be considerate to other students.

You are also expected to do a fair bit of writing over the course of this semester. Please keep in mind that, as I have to read everything you write, correct grammar and spelling are highly appreciated, and, in some cases, will be reflected in your grade. All writing should be typed, in 12 point font, and page requirements are not just a suggestion!

Finally, I am very much hoping that this will be a fun class for all of us, and that we will all learn

something new in every session (including me!). This depends a great deal on how you approach the class, however, so I leave it to you – come prepared, come with questions, and come ready to jump head first into the material, and we will all have a great semester!

Academic Honesty and Integrity Statement

The University views academic dishonesty as one of the most serious offenses that a student can commit while in college and imposes appropriate punitive sanctions on violators. Here are some examples of academic dishonesty. While this is not an all-inclusive list, we hope this will help you to understand some of the things instructors look for. The following is excerpted from the University's policy on academic honesty and integrity; the complete policy is available at <http://www.cps.neu.edu/about-cps/policies-and-procedures>.

Cheating – intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in an academic exercise. This may include use of unauthorized aids (notes, texts) or copying from another student's exam, paper, computer disk, etc.

- *Fabrication* – intentional and unauthorized falsification, misrepresentation, or invention of any data, or citation in an academic exercise. Examples may include making up data for a research paper, altering the results of a lab experiment or survey, listing a citation for a source not used, or stating an opinion as a scientifically proven fact.
- *Plagiarism* – intentionally representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise without providing proper documentation by source by way of a footnote, endnote or intertextual note.
- *Unauthorized collaboration* – Students, each claiming sole authorship, submit separate reports, which are substantially similar to one another. While several students may have the same source material, the analysis, interpretation and reporting of the data must be each individual's.
- *Participation in academically dishonest activities* – Examples include stealing an exam, using a pre-written paper through mail order or other services, selling, loaning or otherwise distributing materials for the purpose of cheating, plagiarism, or other academically dishonest acts; alternation, theft, forgery, or destruction of the academic work of others.
- *Facilitating academic dishonesty* – Examples may include inaccurately listing someone as co-author of paper who did not contribute, sharing a take home exam, taking an exam or writing a paper for another student.

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