

CMSC 355: Introduction to Computer and Network Security
Fall 2023

<http://marmorstein.org/~robert/Fall2023/cs355.html>

Instructor: Robert Marmorstein, 395-2185, marmorsteinrm@longwood.edu

Lecture (Stevens 118): 12:30pm – 1:45pm TR

Office Hours (Stevens 109): 2:00 – 2:45pm (TWR) 1:00 – 2:45pm (F)

I am also available by appointment. To schedule an office visit, contact me using Slack at least 24 hours in advance.

Course Description: A course dealing with basic techniques in computer and network security. Topics covered include elementary cryptography, secure programs, malicious code, protection of operating systems, database security, network security, security administration and legal issues. **3 credits.**

Prerequisite: CMSC 140 or 160 AND either CMSC 201 or ISCS 371.

Textbook: The textbook for this class is “Hands-on Ethical Hacking and Network Defense”, by Michael T. Simpson and Nicholas Antill, Cengage, 3rd Edition, ISBN: 978-1-285-45467-2. However, we will also be using several free on-line resources and web sites.

Course Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of the course, the successful student will be able to:

- describe common security vulnerabilities and how they can be both exploited and mitigated
- identify and correct security weaknesses in system and network configuration
- use safe programming techniques and best practices

Course Requirements: Your grade will be determined by your performance on the quizzes and homework assignments (30% of your grade), lab projects (55%), participation (5%), and final exam(10%).

Course Structure and Student Expectations: This is a lab-driven course with significant lecture and reading components. In addition to regular attendance at lecture, you should expect to spend roughly six hours a week reading the textbook, completing projects, and working on homework exercises.

Projects: This is a heavily lab-driven course. There will be roughly six graded laboratory projects, which cover different aspects of computer security. They will vary in difficulty and complexity.

Tests: The only exam in this course will be the final exam. It will be a comprehensive practical exam covering all substantive topics of the course and designed to match the type and content of problems on professional security certification exams. It will be completed online as follows – you will download the exam from the course web site, complete it, then scan your answers and upload them through the course web site.

Quizzes and Homework Problems: In addition to regular homework assignments, I will give quizzes over topics from the reading assignments and lectures. Some of these many be unannounced “pop” quizzes.

Honor Code:

I take the honor code very seriously. I encourage you to take advantage of the freedom it gives you to collaborate with other students and to use print and Internet resources to better understand the material.

Because it is possible to abuse these resources in a way that actually hinders you from learning or disadvantages other students, I have established some guidelines for their use that you MUST follow.

Please read these rules carefully. It is your responsibility to know them and follow them.

Exams and quizzes are to be completed entirely on your own. Exams will be closed book/closed notes tests on which you may receive no external help and may use no resources other than your brain and a writing instrument (unless explicitly stated in class).

On homework assignments and projects, you may discuss your work with other students subject to these restrictions:

1. Turn in only your own work

The work you submit should, in general, be your own original work or material which I have provided and you have suitably modified. You **MAY** discuss problems with others in a general way. You **MAY** assist other students (or get assistance) with simple problems like syntax errors, but you **MAY NOT** copy solutions or large blocks of code from each other. You **MAY** use web sites, books, and other resources as references, but you should not use large blocks of code from these sites, either.

The definition of “large” in this case varies somewhat based on context, but a good guideline is that while copying one to three lines of code is usually okay, copying a complete function, class, or file is usually too much.

The purpose of this rule is to ensure that you understand the code or answers you are submitting. If you don't think you could explain your work to me without help or looking at a book or web page, you probably should not submit it.

2. Give proper attribution

If you **DO** get help or use an online resource to complete a project, you **MUST** give credit to your source. Taking credit for someone else's work is a form of intellectual theft called plagiarism. To cite a source for homework assignments, you can simply add a note in the margin next to the answer on which you received help. In projects, you should comments to your code. A simple comment like

```
/* Based on http://codewarrior.com */  
    or  
// Susan helped me with this step
```

is fine.

The comment should go **directly above the line or lines on which you received help** to make it clear which parts of your program are original and which are derived from other sources, NOT at the top of the file or in a separate document.

You do not need to cite help you have received directly from me or from the textbook.

3. Do not copy code electronically

Any work you turn in should be work which YOU have typed or hand-written unless I have explicitly instructed you to download or copy/paste it. Typing in blocks of code helps you retain what you have learned better and acts as a safeguard for rule two.

You **MAY NOT** share code with other students using flash drives, cell phones, e-mail, web sites, floppies, CDs, or any other electronic storage or communication device unless you are both assigned to the same group for a project. You **MAY NOT** print out copies of your code to share with other students (personal copies or copies to bring to office hours are fine as long as you don't leave them lying around the lab). You **MAY** copy or download any code I have posted to Slack or the course web site for your use.

4. Avoid ChatGPT and other forms of generative AI

Artificial Intelligence techniques (such as large language models like ChatGPT) pose unique challenges for course delivery. For one thing, use of these tools replaces practice with the skills I want you to develop in the course. For another, AI techniques are known to incorrectly cite (or not cite at all) their many sources. Use of these tools is a sort of plagiarism by proxy. You **MAY NOT** use these tools in any assignment of this course which you submit for a grade – unless I explicitly instruct you to do so in the project handout or during lecture.

5. You are responsible for securing your code.

Helping other students to cheat is also cheating. Furthermore, it is your responsibility to make sure that other students do not use your work to cheat. Be careful with who you let access your computer and report any missing files, flash drives, or other devices to me promptly.

Infractions of these policies will be dealt with harshly under the Longwood Honor Code. Any student convicted of an honor offense involving this class will automatically receive a final course grade of **F** in addition to any penalties imposed by the Honor Board. You should consider all work in this class to be pledged work, whether or not the pledge appears on the assignment.

Attendance:

This class is heavily lecture-driven and will require your regular attendance. Unless you are unable to come to class for health reasons (or an official school sponsored event), I will expect you to attend in person.

In accordance with Longwood policy, missing more than 10% of scheduled class time will result in loss of one letter grade. Students who miss more than 25% of classes, whether excused or not, may at my discretion receive an F for the course.

Absences for school events, illness, or other exceptional circumstances may be excused if you contact me by e-mail prior to or within 12 hours of the missed class. To seek such an accommodation, your e-mail should explain the reason for your absence in sufficient detail that I can determine whether the absence should be excused.

In the event you are sick, it is your responsibility to make up any missed work and get notes over the missing content.

In general, I will not stream lectures for students who miss for illness. However, if you may need to miss class for an extended period of time (such as for COVID quarantine), I may be able to adapt lectures to a format suitable for streaming. To request this accommodation, send me documentation of a legitimate health problem at least 48 hours in advance.

Grading Policy:

Late work will not be accepted unless you have a medical condition or serious emergency which prevents you from completing the assignment on time. In such circumstances, you do not need a doctor's note, but you must contact me by e-mail before the assignment is due (or within 12 hours of the deadline) to explain the circumstances and arrange to make up the work. Such exceptions are granted very rarely. Technical problems involving the use of the submit system, your computer, or lab resources are not valid reasons to submit work late (that is what slip days are for).

Final letter grades will use the following scale:

	A: 91 – 100%	A-: 90%
B+: 89%	B: 81 – 88%	B-: 80%
C+: 79%	C: 71 – 78%	C-: 70%
D+: 69%	D: 64 – 68%	F: 0 – 63%

(Note: there is no grade of D- in this course)

Sexual Misconduct, Mental Health, Intellectual Property, and Disability Statements:

This class follows Longwood policy as described at <http://www.longwood.edu/academicaffairs/syllabus-statements/>.

Students that require accommodations are encouraged to contact the professor and the Accessibility Resources Office to work out a plan. See <http://www.longwood.edu/accessibility/>

Longwood is an Honor Code institution, and students in this course are expected to abide by the tenets of the Honor Code. See <http://www.longwood.edu/studentconduct/honor-code/>

Cell Phones and Laptops:

Cell phones, music players, and laptops must be turned off and put away during lecture and class discussions unless I have specifically requested that you use them. Violations of this policy will be considered an unexcused absence and may also affect your homework or participation grades.

Food and Drink:

Please do not eat in class (it distracts me and the other students). You may bring water or other non-alcoholic beverages to class. I occasionally make exceptions to this rule for students who would otherwise miss lunch or have medical needs that require them to eat in class. If you feel that you need such an exception, you **MUST** make arrangements with me before you bring food to class (preferably by e-mail). Violations of this policy will be considered an unexcused absence and may also affect your homework or participation grades.

Communications Policy: The best way to get in touch with me is to use **Slack**. Slack is a chat utility with clients for mobile devices and desktop computers. I recommend you install it on both types of devices. Slack will allow you to easily send me code snippets, ask questions in real time, or set up a Zoom meeting (or Google Hangout) if we need to

video chat. You should sign up for a Slack account by visiting <https://longwood-cmsc.slack.com>. Use your @live.longwood.edu email address to register and you will be automatically approved.

Slack is also a good way to communicate with other members of the class. You will be invited to a public #cmsc-355 channel in which you can discuss the projects and other course topics with other students in the class. Feel free to ask for help on this channel, but please stick to general questions rather than posting code.

I will expect you to check the #cmsc-355 channel every day before class in case I have posted an announcement or asked you to bring something to class.

When you send me a Slack message, I instantly get a notification on my computer, tablet, and phone. Typically, I will reply to Slack messages within 24 hours (often sooner) on weekdays. While I am often available in the evening or on weekends, you may need to be patient if I am busy with other students or family obligations.

You can also reach out to me by e-mail to marmorsteinrm@longwood.edu. However, please do not send me large files by e-mail. They take up space toward my limited quota on the mail server and cause me all sorts of headaches. **E-mail messages containing large files will be deleted unread.**

I am much slower at replying to e-mail (since I do not get a notification and have to log in to check it). Typically, you can expect a reply to an e-mail within 48 hours, but this may be longer on weekends, and I may not receive your message at all or may not be able to respond to it (my inbox is often over the “quota” allowed by campus I. T. and this often prevents me from using the system effectively).

If you are **asking for help with a project or homework problem**, you should attach your work to a direct message in Slack so that I can see where you are at. You should do this by using the “plus” icon to attach the file directly to your message or by copy/pasting the particular snippet of code you are working on to the body of the message.

Please do NOT attach pictures of your code taken on your phone. These are blurry and hard to read and I can’t run them to see why they are failing. If you need me to see your screen, you can take screenshots of your Unix system using the “spectacle” program (usually by pressing the Print Screen “PrtSc” key).

One last suggestion: don’t “ask to ask”. I am delighted to answer questions about the projects and homework assignments and you should feel free to ask questions at any time (yes, even 3am the night before the project is due – I MIGHT be awake and online). Asking me whether you can ask a question wastes my time and yours.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Week 1: Aug. 22 – 24	Introduction and Ethics, Evidence and Data Storage Read Chapter 1 and Appendix A
Aug. 28	Last day of Add/Drop (by 5 pm)
Week 2: Aug. 29 – Aug. 31	Overview of Computer Networking Read Chapter 2 Lab 1: Denial of Service
Week 3: Sept. 5 – 7	Malware, Viruses, and Physical Security Read Chapter 3
Week 4: Sept. 12 – 14	Social Engineering, Phishing, Footprinting, and OSINT Read Chapter 4
Week 5: Sept. 19 – 21	Authentication, Passwords, and Biometrics Lab 2: Passwords
Week 6: Sept. 26 – 28	File Security, Permissions and Authorization

Week 7: Oct. 3	Port Scanning and Enumeration Read Chapters 5 and 6 Lab 3: Network Tools
Oct. 5	FALL BREAK: NO CLASS
Week 8: Oct. 10 – 12	Secure Programming Read Chapter 7
Week 9: Oct. 17 – 19	Exploits and Vulnerabilities Read Chapter 8
Oct. 20	CCSC Eastern Conference
Week 10: Oct. 24 – 26	Web and Database Security Read Chapter 10 Lab 4: Exploits
Week 11: Oct. 31 – Nov. 2	Network and Wireless Security Read Chapter 11
Nov. 1	Deadline to Withdraw (by 5pm)
Week 12: Nov. 7 – 9	Firewalls and Intrusion Detection Read Chapter 13 Lab 5: Firewalls
Nov. 14	SYMPOSIUM ON THE COMMON GOOD: NO CLASS
Week 13: Nov. 16	Cryptography: Codes and Ciphers, Digital Certificates Read Chapter 12
Week 14: Nov. 21	Catchup and Review Lab 6: Cryptography
Nov. 23 – 25	Thanksgiving Break: No Class
Week 15: Nov. 28 – Nov. 30	Catchup and Review
Dec. 7	Final Exam (Thursday, 11:30am – 2:00pm)