Computer Forensics COSC 4310
School of Science and Engineering
Fall 2017

A. COURSE INFORMATION

Course number/section: COSC 4310-001
Class meeting time: MW 8.00 – 8.50; F Online
Class location: BH-126
Course Website: http://sci.tamucc.edu/~garciam

B. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Mario A Garcia
Office location: CI-331; CI 370
Office hours: M T TH F 2.45 – 4.00 PM;
Telephone: 361 825 3478; 825 2898
e-mail: mario.garcia@tamucc.edu
Appointments: By email

C. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce students to the fundamentals of computer forensics and cyber-crime scene analysis. The various laws and regulations dealing with computer forensic analysis will be discussed. Students will be introduced to the emerging international standards for computer forensic analysis, as well as a formal methodology for conducting computer forensic investigations. Several forensics tools such as Encase and FTK will be used to conduct digital forensics investigation. Prerequisite:

Course relevance. It is expected that the knowledge and practice acquired by the students will help them to find a job as computer forensics investigators.

D. PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITES

None

Corequisites
None

E. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S), READINGS AND SUPPLIES


Optional Textbook(s) or Other References
none
Supplies
none

F. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT
Assessment is a process used by instructors to help improve learning. Assessment is essential for effective learning because it provides feedback to both students and instructors. A critical step in this process is making clear the course’s student learning outcomes that describe what students are expected to learn to be successful in the course. The student learning outcomes for this course are listed below. By collecting data and sharing it with students on how well they are accomplishing these learning outcomes students can more efficiently and effectively focus their learning efforts. This information can also help instructors identify challenging areas for students and adjust their teaching approach to facilitate learning.

By the end of this course, students should be able to:
1. Demonstrate an understanding of the various laws dealing with computer forensic analysis;
2. Demonstrate a working knowledge of basic computer forensics applications and tools
3. Apply the rules of evidence and the importance of the chain of custody
4. Apply the fundamentals and basic principles of computer forensics and crime scene analysis
5. Apply the principles and procedures of computer forensics

G. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES
This class is a hybrid class: it has a face-to-face and online component. The class is composed of lectures, quizzes, hands-on labs, and homework. There will be an online quiz for each chapter. Formative assessment will consist of feedback provided by students after each lecture (summarizing the most important concepts learned in each class and stating what concepts were not understood or were difficult). Summative evaluation will consist of a midterm and final exam.

H. MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING
The class will have formative and summative assessment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>% of FINAL GRADE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab Reports</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20</td>
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# I. COURSE CONTENT/SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE (BY DAY OR WEEK)</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>CHAPTER(S)</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 08/28 -09/01</td>
<td>Introduction to Computer Forensics The Investigator’s office</td>
<td>Chapter 1, 2</td>
<td>Hands-on Lab 1 Quiz Ch 1 Quiz Ch 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2 09/04 Labor day 09/06-08</td>
<td>Data Acquisition</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>Hands-on Lab 2 Quiz Ch 3</td>
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<td>Week 3 09/11-15</td>
<td>Exam 1 09/20</td>
<td>Chapters 1,2,3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4 09/18-22</td>
<td>Processing Crime</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
<td>Hands-on Lab 3 Quiz Ch 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5 09/25-29</td>
<td>Windows Systems Investigations</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
<td>Hands-on Lab 4 Quiz Ch 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6 10/2-6</td>
<td>Digital Forensics Tools</td>
<td>Chapters 6</td>
<td>Hands-on Lab 5 Quiz Ch 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7 10/9-13</td>
<td>Midterm Exam 10/18 Out of town: Oct 18 - 20</td>
<td>Chapters 4,5,6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8 10/15 Last day to drop a class 10/16-20</td>
<td>Recovering Graphic Files</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
<td>Hands-on Lab 7 Quiz Ch 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9 10/23-27</td>
<td>Digital Forensics Validation Out of town Nov 1-3</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
<td>Hands-on Lab 8 Quiz Ch 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10 10/3-11/3</td>
<td>Virtual Machines, Network Forensics</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
<td>Hands-on Lab 9 Quiz Ch 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 11 11/6-10</td>
<td>Exam 3 11/15</td>
<td>Chapters 8,9,10</td>
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<td>Week 12 11/13-17</td>
<td>Email and Social Networks</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
<td>Hands-on Lab 9 Quiz Ch 11</td>
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<td>Week 13 11/22 Reading Day 11/20</td>
<td>Mobile Device Forensics</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
<td>Hands-on Lab 10 Quiz Ch 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 14 11/27-12/1</td>
<td>Cloud Forensics</td>
<td>Chapter 13</td>
<td>Quiz Ch 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 15 12/5 Last day to withdraw from the university</td>
<td>Cloud Forensics</td>
<td>Chapter 13</td>
<td>Quiz Ch 13</td>
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Final Exam December 8         Chapters 1- 13

Note: Changes in this course schedule may be necessary and will be announced to the class by the Instructor. The assignments and exams shown are directly related to the Student Learning Outcomes described in Section F.

J. COURSE POLICIES

Attendance/Tardiness
Class attendance is important to succeed in this course.

Late Work and Make-up Exams
Assigned readings are assumed to be completed as scheduled. Homework, exams and Labs will be submitted using Blackboard. Once the deadline is reached, the submission link in Blackboard will close resulting in a grade of “0”. Submissions by email to the instructor will not be considered and will not be graded.

Extra Credit
None

Cell Phone Use
Must turn them off.

Laptop Use
Not allowed

Food in Class
Not allowed

Missed Exam
Makeup exams will be considered if the instructor is informed ahead of time or in cases of extreme circumstances

Participation
Class participation is essential in this course. Collaborative learning needs the participation of everybody in the class.

Others
Courtesy Expectations. Mutual respect is expected. This is the most important rule: I respect students and I expect respect from the students. The instructor expects full attention from the students when he is lecturing.
K. COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

- **Academic Integrity (University)**
  University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a failing grade.

- **Classroom/Professional Behavior**
  Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

- **Statement of Civility**
  Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

**Deadline for Dropping a Course with a Grade of W (University)**
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Please consult the Academic Calendar (http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/calendar/) for the last day to drop a course.

- **Grade Appeals (College of Science and Engineering)**
  As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards
as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules website at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html), and the College of Science and Engineering Grade Appeals webpage at [http://sci.tamucc.edu/students/GradeAppeal.html](http://sci.tamucc.edu/students/GradeAppeal.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the chair or director of the appropriate department or school, the Office of the College of Science and Engineering Dean, or the Office of the Provost.

- **Disability Services**  
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call (361) 825-5816 or visit Disability Services in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.  
[http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/](http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/)

- **Statement of Academic Continuity**  
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

L. **OTHER INFORMATION**

- **Academic Advising**  
The College of Science & Engineering requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set
up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. Meetings are by appointment only; advisors do not take walk-ins. Please call or stop by the Advising Center to check availability and schedule an appointment. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Center for Instruction 350 or can be reached at (361) 825-3928.

GENERAL DISCLAIMER
I reserve the right to modify the information, schedule, assignments, deadlines, and course policies in this syllabus if and when necessary. I will announce such changes in a timely manner during regularly scheduled lecture periods.