Digital Forensics COSC 6374  
School of Science and Engineering  
Spring 2019

A. COURSE INFORMATION

Course number/section: COSC 6374-001  
Class meeting time: MW 8.00 – 8.50; F Online  
Class location: CS 108  
Course Website: http://sci.tamucc.edu/~garciam

B. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Mario A Garcia  
Office location: CI 370  
Office hours: M T TH F 3.00 – 4.00 PM; W 2.30 – 3.30 PM  
Telephone: 361 825 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework (Quiz, lab reports)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I. COURSE CONTENT/SCHEDULE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE (BY DAY OR WEEK)</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>CHAPTER(S)</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Week 1                | Introductions | 1          | Hands-on Lab 1  
| Jan 14-18             |       |            | Quiz Ch 1    |
| Week 2                | Introduction to Computer Forensics  
| Jan 21-25             | The Investigator’s office  
| Jan 22                | Last day to register or add a class | Chapter 2 | Quiz Ch 2 |
| Week 3                | Data Acquisition | Chapter 3 | Hands-on Lab 2  
| Jan 28- Feb 1         |       |            | Quiz Ch 3    |
| Week 4                | **Exam 1 Feb 6** | Chapters 1,2,3 |
| Feb 4 - 8             |       |            |             |
| Week 5                | Processing Crime | Chapter 4 | Hands-on Lab 3  
| Feb 11-15             |       |            | Quiz Ch 4    |
| Week 6                | Windows Systems Investigations | Chapter 5 | Hands-on Lab 4  
| Feb 18-22             |       |            | Quiz Ch 5    |
| Week 7                | Digital Forensics Tools  
| Feb 25 Mar 1          | Last day to apply for Spring graduation | Chapters 6 | Hands-on Lab 5  
| Feb 26                |       |            | Quiz Ch 6    |
| Week 8                | **Midterm Exam Mar 6** | Chapters 4,5,6 |
| Mar 4-8               |       |            |             |
| Week 9                | **Spring Brake** |            |             |
| Mar 11-15             |       |            |             |
| Week 10               | Recovering Graphic Files | Chapter 8 | Hands-on Lab 7  
| Mar 18-22             |       |            | Quiz Ch 8    |
| Week 11               | Digital Forensics Validation | Chapter 9 | Hands-on Lab 8  
| Mar 25-29             |       |            | Quiz Ch 9    |
| Week 12               | **Exam 3 Apr 3**  
| Apr 1-5               | Last Day to drop a class Apr 5 | Chapters 8,9 |
|                     |       |            |             |
| Week 13               | Virtual Machines, Network Forensics | Chapter 10 | Hands-on Lab 9  
| Apr 8-12              |       |            | Quiz Ch 10   |
| Week 14               | Email and Social Networks | Chapter 11 | Hands-on Lab 9  
| Apr 15-19             |       |            | Quiz Ch 11   |
| Week 15               | Mobile Device Forensics  
| Apr 22-26             | Cloud Forensics  
| Apr 30                | Research paper April 26  
|                     | Last day to withdraw from the University | Chapter 12-13 | Quiz Ch 12-13 |
| Week 16               | **Final Exam May 3** | Chapters 1-12 |
|                     |       |            |             |

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.

**Research Paper.** From the topics covered in class or from a recent relevant digital forensics topic, write a research paper following the proposed rubric.

### J. COURSE POLICIES

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

**Late Work and Make-up Exams**
Assigned readings are assumed to be completed as scheduled. Homework and Labs will be submitted using Blackboard. *Once the deadline is reached, the submission link will close. Submissions by email to the instructor 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.* The instructor expects full attention from the students when he is lecturing.

### K. COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITIY 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)**
  The grade of W will be assigned to any student officially dropping a course. Please consult with the instructor before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, visit the Office of the University Registrar for the Course Drop Form that must be submitted. No student is eligible to receive a W without completing the official drop process by this deadline. Please consult the Academic Calendar ([http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/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, and the College of Science and Engineering Grade Appeals webpage at 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.