

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS 161: Introduction to Cybercrime
Fall 2021

COURSE AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: D. Jackson Sargent, MPA
Office Hours: By Appointment
Office Location: Virtual
Email: jackson.sargent@sjsu.edu
Class Day & Time: N/A
Classroom: Online
Prerequisites: JS 100W (or equivalent)

COURSE FORMAT

Online: The Canvas Learning Management System will be used as a means for distributing course materials such as the syllabus, handouts, lecture slides, assignment instructions, and communications about changes to the course. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU to learn of updates.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Introduces students to the growing legal, technical, and social issues surrounding crimes committed in cyberspace or assisted by computers. Discusses the nature of cybercrime from an international perspective and how the borderless nature of cybercrime impacts regulation and enforcement.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores how an interconnected world has modified how existing criminal activity is conducted and how new criminal opportunities have been created. Students will examine the history and complex nature of computer-related crime and how society has attempted to respond. Students will explore the different types of cybercriminals including their motives, rationale, and methods of attack. Students will also evaluate various legal and regulatory issues in cyberspace.

COURSE GOALS

The Department of Justice Studies is committed to scholarly excellence. Therefore, the Department promotes academic, critical, and creative engagement with language (i.e., reading and writing) throughout its curriculum. A sustained and intensive exploration of language prepares students to think critically and to act meaningfully in interrelated areas of their lives—personal, professional, economic, social, political, ethical, and cultural. Graduates of the Department of Justice Studies leave San José State University prepared to enter a range of careers and for advanced study in a variety of fields; they are prepared to more effectively identify and ameliorate injustice in their personal, professional and civic lives. Indeed, the impact of literacy is evident not only within the span of a specific course, semester, or academic program but also over the span of a lifetime.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- ✓ Distinguish between the different types of cybercrimes, including who/what they target, how/where they are conducted, and why they persist.
- ✓ Describe the impacts of the Internet on the opportunities created for committing traditional crimes (e.g., bullying) and new crimes (e.g., phishing).
- ✓ Identify the challenges faced nationally and internationally at combating cybercrime and the steps taking by organizations to address these challenges.
- ✓ Take steps to increase their own security and privacy when online.
- ✓ Take what they have learned in class and apply it to current events.

REQUIRED TEXTS / READINGS

Textbooks

Yar, M., & Steinmetz, K.F. (2019). *Cybercrime and Society* (3rd Edition). Sage. ISBN13: 978-1526440655.

Holt, T., Bossler, A., and Seigfried-Spellar, K. (2018). *Cybercrime and Digital Forensics: An Introduction* (2nd Edition). Routledge. ISBN13: 978-1-138238732.

Other Readings

Supplied electronically via Canvas

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Online Discussion (20%): Active participation in discussions is a necessary and integral part of the course. Each week there will be an online discussion, through Canvas, on specific readings and key issues or current events related to that week's overall topic. Students will be expected to discuss the implications of the issue or event to our understanding of cybercrime and how it is addressed by societies.

Online Privacy Exercise (10%): This assignment provides students with practical experience to explore the concept of personal privacy, or lack thereof, on the Internet. Students will write a short paper (1,000 words) on their investigation of two topics (identified by the instructor) related to online privacy, describing the steps they took to complete the exercise. Students will then reflect on the steps others may take to find out personal information about them. Detailed instructions pertaining to this assignment are available on Canvas. **This assignment is due Sunday October 3rd.**

Topic Paper (20%): This assignment will require students to select a type of cybercrime discussed in the course, locate a minimum of six scholarly articles identifying an issue associated with the selected topic, and prepare an assessment of this issue. Detailed instructions pertaining to this assignment are available on Canvas. **This assignment is due Tuesday November 23rd.**

Midterm and Final Examinations (50%): Students will be administered a Midterm and a Final Examination, each worth 25% of their final grade. Each timed exam will occur online and will cover material from lectures (including all media presented) and assigned readings. Each exam will be non-cumulative and comprised of multiple choice, true/false, and short-answer questions.

GRADING INFORMATION

To receive a grade for this course, all course requirements must be met, and every assignment must be completed. *At the discretion of the course instructor, late assignments/papers may be subject to a deduction of 10 percent for every calendar day that they are late, including weekend days.*

Grade Scale

A	=	94-100%	A-	=	90-93%
B+	=	87-89%	B	=	83-86%
B-	=	80-82%	C+	=	77-79%
C	=	73-76%	C-	=	70-72%
D+	=	67-69%	D	=	63-66%
D-	=	60-62%	F	=	Below 60%

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Course topics are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Week	Beginning	Topic	Readings
1	08/19/21	Introduction	<i>Cybercrime and Digital Forensics (Holt)</i> Chapter 1 (Technology and Cybercrime) <i>Cybercrime and Society (Yar)</i> Chapter 1 (Cybercrime and the Internet: An Introduction) Chapter 2 (Researching and Theorizing Cybercrime) Additional readings provided by instructor on Canvas
2	08/23/21	Computer Crimes	<i>Cybercrime and Digital Forensics (Holt)</i> Chapter 4 (Malware and Automated Computer Attacks) Additional readings provided by instructor on Canvas
3	08/30/21	Hacking	<i>Cybercrime and Digital Forensics (Holt)</i> Chapter 3 (Computer Hackers and Hacking) <i>Cybercrime and Society (Yar)</i> Chapter 3 (Hackers, Crackers, and Viral Coders)

Week	Beginning	Topic	Readings
4	09/06/21	Copyright Infringement	<i>Cybercrime and Digital Forensics (Holt)</i> Chapter 5 (Digital Piracy and Intellectual Property Theft) <i>Cybercrime and Society (Yar)</i> Chapter 5 (Virtual 'Pirates': Intellectual Property Theft Online)
5	09/13/21	Personal Security	Readings provided by instructor on Canvas
6	09/20/21	Your Online ID	<i>Cybercrime and Digital Forensics (Holt)</i> Chapter 6 (Economic Crimes and Online Fraud) <i>Cybercrime and Society (Yar)</i> Chapter 6 (Cyber-Frauds, Scams, and Cons)
7	09/27/21	Email Spam	Readings provided by instructor on Canvas Online Privacy Exercise due Sunday October 3rd
8	10/04/21	Deep Web	Readings provided by instructor on Canvas
9	10/11/21	MIDTERM EXAM	NO READINGS
10	10/18/21	Organized Crime	Readings provided by instructor in lecture slides
11	10/25/21	Personal Cybercrimes	<i>Cybercrime and Digital Forensics (Holt)</i> Chapter 9 (Cyberbullying, Online Harassment, and Cyberstalking) <i>Cybercrime and Society (Yar)</i> Chapter 9 (The Victimization of Individuals Online: Cyberstalking and Paedophilia)
12	11/01/21	Terrorism & Extremism	<i>Cybercrime and Digital Forensics (Holt)</i> Chapter 10 (Online Extremism, Cyberterror, Cyberwarfare) <i>Cybercrime and Society (Yar)</i> Chapter 4 (Political Hacking: From Hacktivism to Cyberterrorism) Additional readings provided by instructor on Canvas

Week	Beginning	Topic	Readings
13	11/08/21	Sex Crimes and Human Trafficking	<p><i>Cybercrime and Digital Forensics (Holt)</i> Chapter 7 (Pornography, Prostitution, and Sex Crimes)</p> <p><i>Cybercrime and Society (Yar)</i> Chapter 7 (Illegal, Harmful, and Offensive Content Online: From Hate Speech to ‘the Dangers’ of Pornography) <u>pgs. 163-171 only</u></p> <p>Chapter 8 (Child Pornography and Child Sex Abuse Imagery)</p> <p>Additional readings provided by instructor on Canvas</p>
14	11/15/21	Cybercrime and the Law	<p><i>Cybercrime and Society (Yar)</i> Chapter 10 (Policing the Internet)</p> <p><i>Cybercrime and Society (Yar)</i> Chapter 11 (Cybercrimes and Cyberliberties: Surveillance, Privacy, and Crime Control)</p>
15	11/22/21	Thanksgiving Break / Topic Paper	Topic Paper Assignment due Tuesday November 23rd
16	11/29/21	Misinformation and Disinformation Deepfakes Future Directions	<p><i>Cybercrime and Society (Yar)</i> Chapter 12 (Conclusion: Looking Toward the Future of Cybercrime)</p> <p>Additional readings provided by instructor on Canvas</p>
17	12/09/21	FINAL EXAM	Thursday December 9th, 5.15 – 7.30pm