CYBR 201-800 Fundamentals of Cybersecurity

Syllabus – Spring 2026

Key Info

- **Instructor: Geoffrey Stoker**
- **Email:** stokerg@uncw.edu
- **Class Time:** Online
- **Office hours:** Email for appointment

Required Text

There is currently no required text for this course.

Grading

- [*+/- at instructor discretion*]
- **A:** (avg >= 90)
- **B:** (90 > avg) and (avg >= 80)
- **C:** (80 > avg) and (avg >= 70)
- **D:** (70 > avg) and (avg >= 60)

Coursework

- **15%** Discussions
- **10%** Quizzes
- **30%** Tests
- **15%** Posters
- **10%** Presentation
- **20%** Final

Course Description

Prerequisite: None.
Provide students with familiarization and basic, high-level understanding of the fundamental concepts of cybersecurity. Provide students with the basic security design principles that are needed to create systems that are worthy of being trusted. Provide students with familiarization and basic, high-level understanding of the components in an IT system and the roles of those components in system operation. Provide students with an understanding of the processes and regulations associated with the analysis/evaluation of operational systems and the authorities and processes for the approval of their operation.

Course Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

1. Describe the fundamental concepts of the cybersecurity discipline and use to provide system security. [IL 1]
2. Describe potential system attacks and the actors that might perform them. [IL 1]
3. Describe cyber defense tools, methods and components and apply cyber defense methods to prepare a system to repel attacks. [IL 1]
4. Describe appropriate measures to be taken should a system compromise occur. [IL 3]
5. Define the principles of cybersecurity. [IL 1]
6. Describe why each principle is important to security and how it enables the development of security mechanisms that can implement desired security policies. [IL 2]
7. Analyze common security failures and identify specific design principles that have been violated. [IL 2], [IL 3]
8. Given a specific scenario, identify the design principles involved or needed. [IL 3]
9. Understand the interaction between security and system usability and the importance for minimizing the effects of security mechanisms. [IL 2]
10. Describe the hardware components of modern computing environments and their individual functions. [IL 2]
11. Describe the basic security implications of modern computing environments. [IL 3]
12. Understand the Federal, State and Local Cyber Defense partners/structures. [IL 3]
13. Describe the DoD system certification and accreditation processes. [IL 3]
14. Define certification and accreditation. [IL 3]
15. Properly use the Vocabulary associated with cybersecurity. [IL 3]

Common Student Learning Outcomes for Information Literacy [IL]

1. Develop questions for research that necessitate information seeking, gathering, and analysis and employ effective and iterative search strategies to address them. [Information Literacy, Inquiry]
2. Critically evaluate and classify sources based on the context in which they were produced and disseminated, their place in the relevant scholarly conversation(s), and their indicators of authority. [Critical Thinking, Information Literacy]
3. Synthesize and effectively use information to create new content (e.g., papers, presentations, data analyses, videos) that addresses the research questions, demonstrates ethical use of information (including the acknowledgement of other's intellectual work), and adheres to any established disciplinary or professional parameters. [Information Literacy, Thoughtful Expression]

Schedule (*all times are ET)

Week #	Starts	Date	Topic	Assignments - due on Sundays at 11:59pm (Except Exams)
1	Mon	12-Jan	Introduction to Course Cybersecurity Foundations (CSF)	*Introduce Yourself* *Why Cybersecurity Matters?*
2	Mon	19-Jan	Cybersecurity Foundations (CSF)	*19 Jan No Classes* *CSF 1 Assignments*
3	Mon	26-Jan	Cybersecurity Foundations (CSF)	*CSF 2 Assignments*
4	Mon	2-Feb	Cybersecurity Foundations (CSF)	*CSF 3 Assignments*
5	Mon	9-Feb	Cybersecurity Foundations (CSF)	CSF 4 Assignments
6	Mon	16-Feb	Cybersecurity Principles (CSP)	*CSP 1 Assignments* **** 1st Exam (ONLINE) - CSF Assessment due 2/20 at 11:59pm**
7	Mon	23-Feb	Cybersecurity Principles (CSP)	*CSP 2 Assignments*
8	Mon	2-Mar		Spring Break 2-8 March No Classes
9	Mon	9-Mar	IT Systems Components (ISC)	*ISC 1 Assignments* **** 2nd Exam (ONLINE) - CSP Assessment due 3/13 at 11:59pm**
10	Mon	16-Mar	IT Systems Components (ISC)	*ISC 2 Assignments* *Pick a Topic for 'Breach Topic Final Presentation*
11	Mon	23-Mar	IT Systems Components (ISC)	*ISC 3 Assignments*
12	Mon	30-Mar	Systems Certification and Accreditation (SCA)	*2-4 April No Classes* *SCA 1 Assignments* **** 3rd Exam (ONLINE) - ISC Assessment due 4/5 at 11:59pm**
13	Mon	6-Apr	Systems Certification and Accreditation (SCA)	SCA 2 Assignments
14	Mon	13-Apr	Breach Topic Presentation	*Final Presentation: Breach Topic Presentation*
15	Mon	20-Apr	Wrap Up	Study Guide Quiz
16	Mon	27-Apr	Wrap Up	****Final Exam (ONLINE) (due 1 May at 11:59pm)**
17	Sun	4-May		**1-7 May Final Exam Week**

Throughout the semester, you will engage in a variety of activities designed to build your knowledge and skills in cybersecurity. All course materials and assignments are available in Canvas from the start of the semester, allowing you to work ahead or follow the weekly schedule at your own pace.

You can expect the following types of work:

- **Discussions** – Weekly discussion board activities where you will post definitions, examples, or reflections and respond to your peers.
- **Quizzes** – Weekly assessments to check your understanding of key cybersecurity concepts and reinforce what you've learned.
- **Poster Assignments** – Weekly poster submissions where you explain or apply cybersecurity concepts.
- **Final Presentation** – A multi-part poster presentation analyzing a real-world cybersecurity breach, including peer replies.
- **Tests/Exams** – Three unit exams covering major course sections, plus one comprehensive final exam.

Policy Information

Academic Honor Code

As a student at The University of North Carolina Wilmington, I am committed to honesty and truthfulness in academic inquiry and in the pursuit of knowledge. I pledge to uphold and promote the UNCW Student Academic Honor Code.

The University of North Carolina Wilmington is a community of high academic standards where academic integrity is valued. UNCW students are committed to honesty and truthfulness in academic inquiry and in the pursuit of knowledge. This commitment begins when new students matriculate at UNCW, continues as they create work of the highest quality while part of the university community, and endures as a core value throughout their lives.

Please read and be familiar with the UNCW Student Academic Honor Code (https://uncw.edu/about/university-administration/student-affairs/departments/dean-students/honor-code/#:~:text=The%20Honor%20Code%20Pledge,in%20the%20pursuit%20of%20knowledge). I have highlighted some parts that are particularly relevant to the courses I teach that you can find in Canvas course home page, under 'Resources'.
Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated in this class.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (such as ChatGPT, Copilot, Gemini, etc.) are powerful resources that can support learning, but their use must be **responsible, transparent, and consistent with UNCW's academic integrity policy**.
Permitted Use:
- You may use AI tools to **generate ideas, brainstorms, study, or review concepts**.
- You may use AI tools to **check your writing for clarity, grammar, or enhance creative assignments.**
- When an assignment *explicitly allows* AI, it will be noted in the assignment instructions, you may incorporate it, but you must **acknowledge how AI contributed** to your submission.

Not Permitted:
- Submitting AI-generated text, scripts, or solutions **as if they were your own original explanation of cybersecurity concepts**.
- Using AI to complete **quizzes, exams, or assessments**.
- Letting AI replace your own understanding of the material. Remember: the goal is for you to learn to explain cybersecurity concepts clearly and accurately.

Expectations:
- Any use of AI must be **properly acknowledged** in your submission.
- AI is a **supplementary tool**, not a substitute for your learning. The goal of this course is for you to build your own cybersecurity knowledge and skills. Your work must always demonstrate your own understanding of cybersecurity topics. AI may assist with creativity, but it cannot substitute for your analysis, explanation, or comprehension.
- Failing to follow these guidelines will be treated as a violation of UNCW's Academic Honor Code.

Time Commitment

It is a matter of UNC system policy that you should expect to be committed for an average of **8.5 hours per week (hpw)** to this class (or any 3-credit hour class).
A credit hour is defined as one 50-minute meeting of face-to-face instruction per week for 15 weeks, plus a minimum of 2 hours per week for 15 weeks of out-of-class student work.

- 1 credit = 50 min * 15 = 750 min instruction + 120 min * 15 = 1800 min student work; so, 12.5 hours of instruction + 30 hours of work = 42.5 hours
- 3 credits = 37.5 hours of instruction + 90 hours of work = 127.5 hours
- **127.5 hours/15 weeks = 8.5 hours/week (hpw)

You should be mentally prepared to spend ~8.5 hpw on this class.

Grading

Grading Scale (+/- at instructor discretion)

A: (avg >= 90)
B: (90 > avg) and (avg >= 80)
C: (80 > avg) and (avg >= 70)
D: (70 > avg) and (avg >= 60)

Coursework Weighting
15% Discussions
10% Quizzes
30% Tests
15% Posters
10% Final Presentation
20% Final Exam

Late Policy

Discussions will close on the due date and will not generally be re-opened.
Exception: Unexpected life event that derails a reasonable plan to accomplish a discussion by the due time/date; e.g. car accident, illness, family death, etc. Email me if/when this occurs, and I will be reasonable.

Extra Credit

There is no guaranteed or pre-planned extra credit on this course. However, I may occasionally post optional extra credit opportunities in Canvas (clearly marked as such). These are not required but can help reinforce course concepts. In addition, I may, at my discretion, award small amounts of extra credit for exceptional work that demonstrates effort, creativity, or depth beyond the expected level.

Attendance

This course is conducted **online, asynchronous**. There are no regularly scheduled live class meetings. You are expected to manage your time effectively, keep up with weekly modules in Canvas, and submit assignments by the deadlines provided.
   Attendance Notes
- Because the course is asynchronous, there is no weekly attendance requirement.
- Participation is measured through your timely engagement with Canvas modules, discussions, assignments, and tests/exams.
- Failure to submit your poster presentation by the deadline will result in no credit for the final presentation project.

Communication

The best way to contact me is via email. When writing me an email, please, indicate your class as **CYBR 201 800**. Also, be clear/concise: start with your question and then provide supporting details.

If you post questions in the assignment comment section in Canvas, I will likely not see it - do not do that.

Technical Assistance

There are no special technical requirements for CYBR 201. If you have trouble with any UNCW-related infrastructure (e.g., Zoom, OneDrive, Horizon, VPN), you should contact TAC/ITS (https://uncw.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/1875/Portal/Home) as they are the managers of these systems.

Student Illness

Students are to do a health check each day before coming to campus. Students who experience COVID-19 symptoms should immediately contact the Abrons Student Health Center at (910) 962-3280.

Disaster Contingency Plan

In the event that UNCW closes, students will be given an assignment to make up for 1 week of missed class time. This will be emailed to students within two days of the UNCW closing announcement. In the event that the rest of the semester is online, students need to be prepared by having reliable internet access, a webcam, and a microphone.

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability and need accommodation, you must be registered with Disability Services (DePaolo Hall, 910.962.7555). Please provide your Accommodations Letter within the first week of class or as soon as possible. You should then meet with your instructor to make mutually agreed upon arrangements based upon the recommendations in the Accommodations Letter. For additional information, please see UNCW Disability (https://uncw.edu/seahawk-life/support-success/disability-resource-center/?utm_source=disability&utm_medium=301&utm_id=REDIR1).

Title IX

UNCW takes all forms of interpersonal violence very seriously. When students disclose, first- or third-hand, to faculty or staff about sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence and/or stalking, this information must be reported to the administration in order to ensure that students' rights are protected, appropriate resources are offered, and the need for further investigation is explored to maintain campus safety. There are three confidential resources who do not need to report interpersonal violence: UNCW CARE, the Student Health Center, and the Counseling Center. If you want to speak to someone in confidence, these resources are available, including CARE's 24-hour crisis line (910-512-4821). For more information, please visit https://uncw.edu/seahawk-life/health-wellness/violence-prevention/?utm_source=care&utm_medium=301&utm_id=REDIR1.

Code of Student Conduct

This course is subject to the Code of Student Life of the University of North Carolina Wilmington (the Code). The full Code is found here Code of Student Life (https://uncw.edu/about/university-administration/student-affairs/departments/campus-life/?utm_source=campuslife&utm_medium=301&utm_id=REDIR1). UNCW practices zero tolerance for violence and harassment of any kind. For emergencies, contact UNCW CARE at 910.962.2273 or Campus Police at 910.962.3184. For University or community resources visit Safe Relate Campus Resources (https://uncw.edu/seahawk-life/dining-housing/living-off-campus/resources/safety).

Religious Observance Policy

In accordance with NC SL 2010-211, students are entitled to two excused absences for religious observances per academic year. These absences must be requested using the form provided on SeaNet, under "Student Services." These requests must be submitted by the student prior to the absence. Once the request is submitted, an email will be sent to all impacted instructors automatically. There is no need to send additional notification to instructors or the Registrar's Office. Any absence for religious purposes will be considered unexcused unless the appropriate form is submitted.

Seahawk Respect Compact

In the pursuit of excellence, UNC Wilmington actively fosters, encourages, and promotes inclusiveness, mutual respect, acceptance, and open-mindedness among students, faculty, staff and the broader community.

- We affirm the dignity of all persons.
- We promote the right of every person to participate in the free exchange of thoughts and opinions within a climate of civility and mutual respect.
- We strive for openness and mutual understanding to learn from differences in people, ideas and opinions.

- We foster an environment of respect for each individual, even where differences exist, by eliminating prejudice and discrimination through education and interaction with others.

Therefore, we expect members of the campus community to honor these principles as fundamental to our ongoing efforts to increase access to and inclusion in a community that nurtures learning and growth for all.