

CSCI 5470 - Cyber Risk Governance

Fall 2026

Lab time: Mondays 12:35 PM – 2:35 PM – BC 120

Lecture Time: Wednesdays 12:35 PM – 2:35 PM – BC 125

Office Hours: Tuesdays Brinkley Center 155 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Welcome to Cyber Risk Governance!

The purpose of this course is to prepare students to plan and apply cyber risk management strategies considering various perspectives like budgeting, spending priorities, organization's mission and return on investment. This course is important because it focuses on the business and management aspects of cybersecurity which prepares students to take on leadership roles in assuring the security and the mission of an organization using the appropriate cyber risk management strategies (e.g., budgeting, people training).

This syllabus is a contractual agreement between the students and professor and contains the policies and expectations established for this course. Please read the entire syllabus carefully before continuing in this course. These policies and expectations are intended to create a productive learning atmosphere for all students. Unless you are prepared to abide by these policies and expectations, you risk losing the opportunity to participate further in the course.

Course Information

Course Objectives: The goal of this course is to help you plan and apply cyber risk management strategies considering various perspectives like budgeting, spending priorities, organization's mission and return on investment. By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Describe the role of cybersecurity management in the success of organizations.
2. Demonstrate a core understanding of cybersecurity concepts, issues, and components.
3. Explain and implement the principles of information security management to real-world cases (case studies).
4. Develop cybersecurity spending priorities for risk management in an organization.
5. Incorporate various perspectives in planning cybersecurity countermeasures to address vulnerabilities.
6. Plan and implement a risk management program for cybersecurity.

Course Webpage: For this course, we will be using the ETSU Online Learning Management System, D2L. The course webpage can be accessed via the college main page at: elearn.etsu.edu. Be sure that you are able to access D2L the first week of class so that you can check for important course announcements, access online assignments, and view other course materials. Assignment grades and other important course materials will be posted on this webpage throughout the semester.

Textbooks and Material (All Optional)

Textbooks (Recommended, not required)

- Whitman, M., and Mattord, H. (2018). Management of Information Security, 6th Ed., Cengage Learning: Stamford, CT. ISBN-10: 133740571X, ISBN-13: 978-1337405713
- William Stallings (2019) A. Effective Cybersecurity. SBN-13: 9780134772806
- Agresti, W. (2010). The four forces shaping cybersecurity. IEEE Computer, 42(2): 101–104.
- Anderson, R. and Moore, T. (2006). The economics of information security, Science, 314: 610–613.
- Gordon, L., and Loeb, M. (2002). Return on information security investments: myths vs. realities, Strategic Finance, November, 26–31.
- Hole, K., and Netland, L. (2010). Toward risk assessment of large-impact and rare events, IEEE Security and Privacy, May–June, 21–27.
- Kark, K. (2010). The five R's: building a business case for information security, CSO Online, Accessed October 10, 2019 from <https://www.csoonline.com/article/2124269/the-five-rs--building-a-business-case-for-information-security.html>.

Student Responsibilities and Responsible Classroom Conduct

Respectful Online Classroom Conduct: All students and the instructor are expected to engage with each other respectfully. Unwelcome conduct directed toward another person based upon that person's actual or perceived race, actual or perceived gender, color, religion, age, national origin, ethnicity, disability, or veteran status, or for any other reason, may constitute a violation of University Policy 406, The Code of Student Responsibility. Any student suspected of engaging in such conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Preferred Gender Pronoun: This course affirms people of all gender expressions and gender identities. Feel free to correct me on your preferred gender pronoun. If you prefer to be called a different name than what is indicated on the class roster, please ***let me know***. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Academic Integrity

All students are required to read and abide by the Code of Student Academic Integrity. Violations of the Code of Student Academic Integrity, including plagiarism, will result in disciplinary action as provided in the Code. Definitions and examples of plagiarism are set forth in the Code. The Code is available from the Dean of Students Office or [online via this link](#).

Plagiarism will NOT be tolerated: You are encouraged to help fellow students, and be inspired by existing webpages, but all submissions are to be your own work. While you may use existing web pages for inspiration, copying text from a web site will not be tolerated. If you have any questions about what is and is not plagiarism, see the instructor before submission.

Using AI to automatically generate text is NOT permitted.

Using AI can be helpful to learn about topics. However, submitting reports generated or polished by AI will not be acceptable. While some students might use AI to fix text, D2L will flag those as AI-generated. For this reason, **using AI to produce reports or fix/tidy texts to be submitted will NOT be accepted** for any assignment.

Course Policies

Communication policy: It is course policy that regular questions about course content must be asked through the discussion forum. To contact the professor via email, **please include the course title in the email subject and allow 24-48 hours (excluding weekends) to receive an answer from me.** Also, feel free to answer each other's questions on D2L forums.

Disability

Students who need accommodations are asked to arrange a meeting during office hours the first week of classes, or as soon as possible if accommodations are needed immediately. If you have a conflict with my office hours, an alternate time can be arranged. To set up this meeting, please contact me by E-mail. Bring a copy of your Accommodation Memo and an Instructor Verification Form to the meeting. If you do not have a Letter of Accommodation but need accommodations, make an appointment with The Office of Disability Services, 423-439-8346 ([website](#)).

Religious Observances

It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious observances on which they will be absent by submitting a Request for Religious Accommodation Form ([Links to an external site.](#)) [Links to an external site.](#) to their professor prior to the census date for enrollment for a given semester. The census date for each semester (typically the tenth day of instruction) can be found in ETSU academic calendar . The student will meet with professor when submitting the religious accommodation form to discuss accommodations.

Course Requirements and Grading

Late Submission Policy

Late submissions are deliverables that are not submitted on time. Late submissions are penalized 50% per each day (with in 24 hours of the deadline). After the second late day, the grade will be zero. Extensions may be accepted with a documented reason.

Quizzes

There will be a shorter quiz that covers the readings, and study material discussed in the module.

Project

A project that utilizes the material covered in the course will be posted on D2L. More details will be provided in the project module.

Research Article

A research article assignment that discusses the material covered in the course will be posted on D2L. More details will be provided on D2L

Course Grading Policy

27% Quizzes (~ 10 Quizzes)

27% Exercises (~ 10 Labs)

12% Midterm Exam

7% Research Article Assignment

13% Project Assignment

14% Final Exam

Grading Scale

- A (93 – 100)
- A – (90-92)
- B + (87 – 89)
- B (83 – 86)
- B – (80 - 82)
- C + (77-79)
- C (73-76)
- C – (70-72)
- F (< 60)

Other Resources

Disability Services

It is the policy of ETSU to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal law, state law and the University's commitment to equal educational access. Any student with a disability who needs accommodations, for example arrangement for examinations or seating placement, should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Faculty accommodation forms are provided to students through Disability Services in the D.P. Culp Center, Suite 390, telephone 423-439-8346.

Visit the Disability Services webpage for more information at <https://www.etsu.edu/students/ds/>

Academic Support and Mental Health Services

The BucsCARE website is meant to be a resource for students and for student referral. BucsCARE includes the most referenced offices and campus resources in various categories. This page includes a link to ETSU's "Need Help ?" site which includes a comprehensive listing to other resources by topic area.

Learn more about the BucsCARE services at <https://www.etsu.edu/bucscare/default.php>

Library Resources

The Sherrod Library extends access and services to all currently enrolled ETSU students. These services include traditional library patronage via Research and Instructional Services, Technology, and Content Services.

Learn more about the Sherrod Library by visiting <https://libraries.etsu.edu>

Help Desk

The Information Technology Services (ITS) Help Desk is the best resource for most technical problems. Find answers to common questions on the [Help Desk website](#), call, email, or stop in to see them on the first floor of the Sherrod Library. (423) 439-4648 itshelp@etsu.edu

Desire2Learn (D2L) Online Help

Many answers to D2L related questions can be found on the [D2L Help Student Home](#). If you are still having trouble finding what you need, contact the Help Desk.

Microsoft Office Software

Microsoft Office productivity applications, including Word, PowerPoint, Excel, OneNote, and more, are available free for students through the University's Office 365 campus agreement. For instructions on how to obtain the software, see the [Office 365 page of the ITS Help Desk website](#).

ETSU Technical Resources

Many other technical resources can be found on the [Online Help webpage](#).